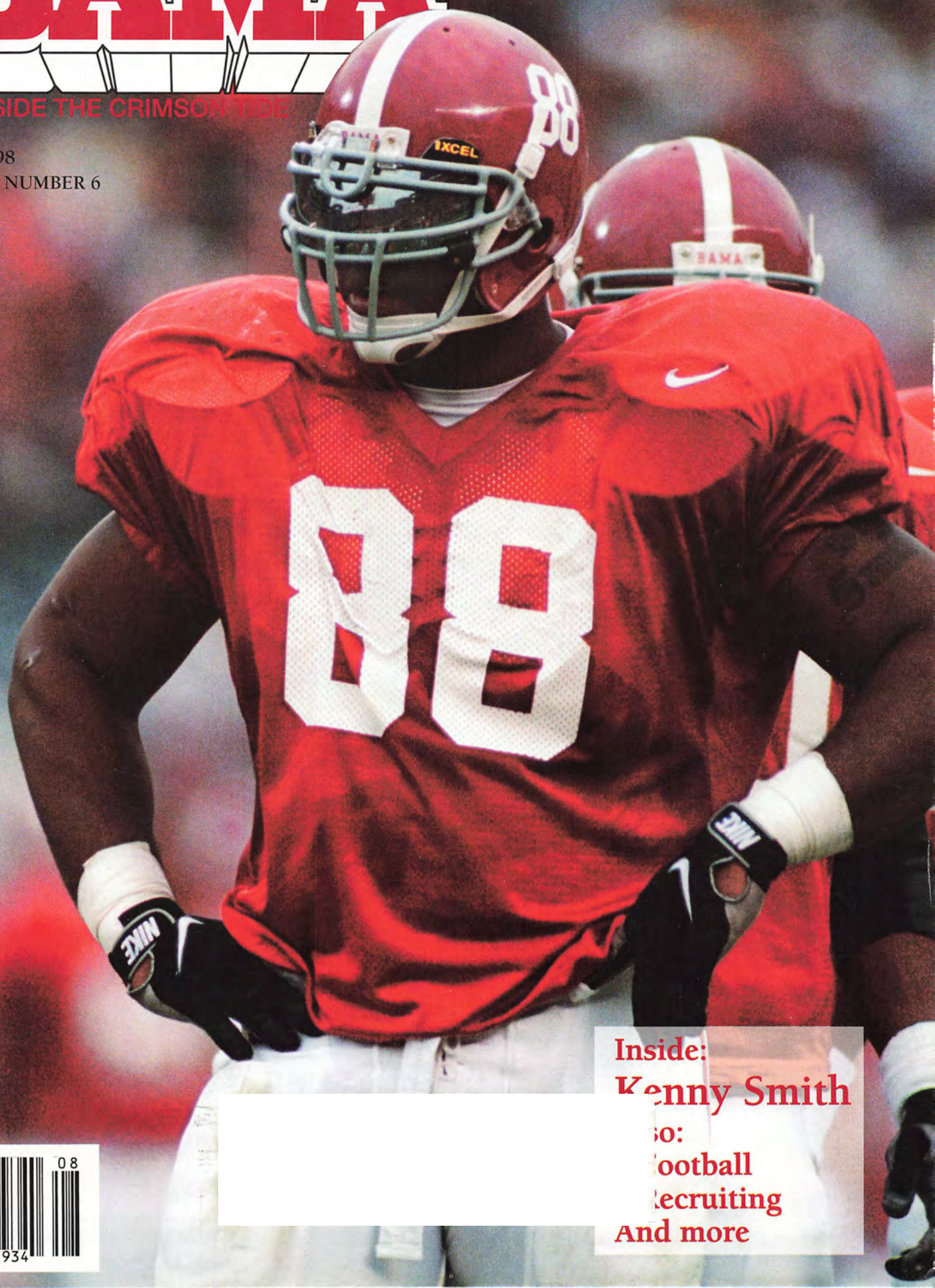


'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

AUGUST, 1998
VOLUME 20, NUMBER 6



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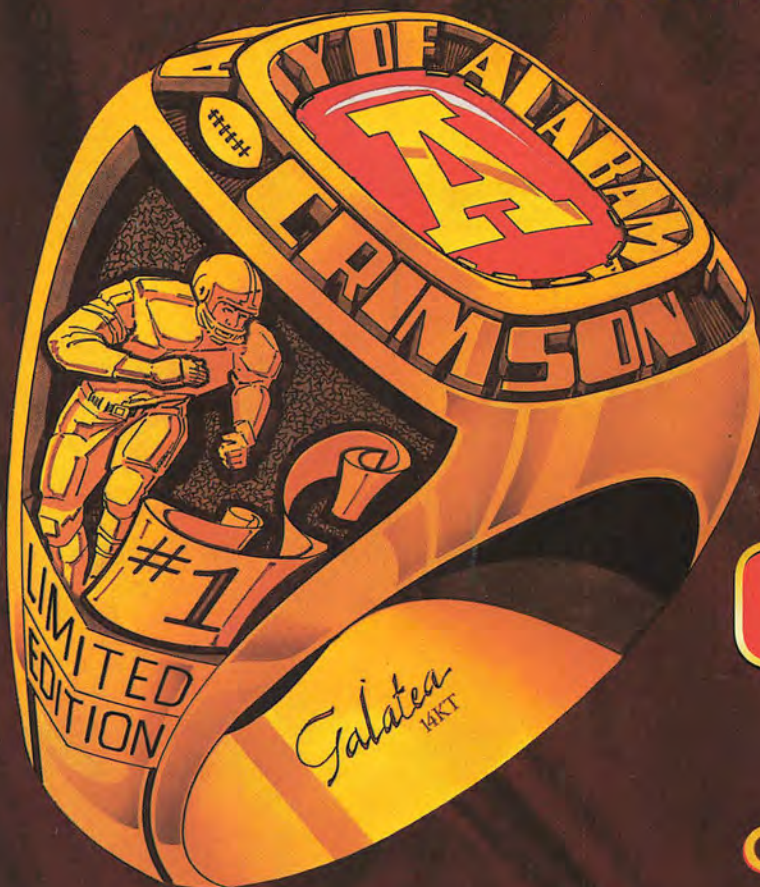
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Daily updates (selection 2) by 8 p.m. CT each day of practices and weekly reports (selection 3) by 7 p.m. each Sunday resume August 9

RECRUITING INFORMATION

Weekly updates (Selection 5) resume in September.

UPDATES ON ALL BAMA SPORTS

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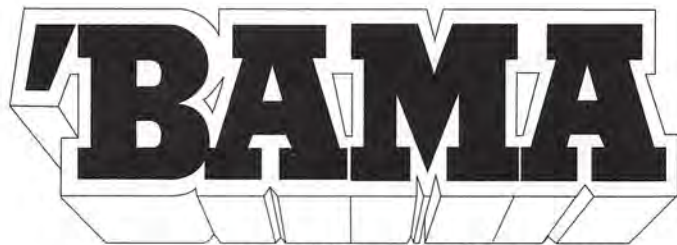
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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST '98



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Barry Fikes Photo



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Tide Must Be Wary Of NCAA Probe

by Kirk McNair

University appears to have done all the right things in self-reported basketball situation

As Alabama faces its second round with the NCAA investigative arm, the Crimson Tide has to be wary of another sucker punch. Without rehashing the inept performance of the NCAA, and particularly the Infractions Committee headed up by Oklahoma law professor David Swank in an investigation of Bama football, Alabama must be prepared for the worst as NCAA Director of Enforcement, Mark Jones, announced a preliminary inquiry into Alabama's basketball program.

Although the letter from Jones to University President Andrew Sorensen noted The University's "thorough and prompt report," Alabama officials seem keenly aware of the possibility of severe repercussions. And after the NCAA took years to resolve Bama's last brush with NCAA rules, the expectation of a prompt resolution (Jones letter said "by late August") of the matter is questionable. Any NCAA foot-dragging could severely cripple new Coach Mark Gottfried (who is not involved in the situation) as Gottfried faces a critical recruiting year.

According to a memorandum from Sorensen to University Chancellor Tom Meredith, Alabama "self-reported" to the NCAA the possibility that an assistant coach "engaged in recruiting practices contrary to the compliance standard required of all University coaches and staff to adhere to both the letter and spirit of NCAA regulation."

In January, Athletics Director Bob Bockrath suspended Assistant Basketball Coach Tyrone Beaman. Later, Bockrath fired Head Coach David Hobbs (and, simultaneously, all Hobbs' assistants) effective at the end of the season. At the announcement of the firing, Bockrath said it had nothing to do with Beaman's suspension. Beaman was later reinstated in a bizarre series of events, but Bockrath prohibited Beaman from taking part in any recruiting activities after the reinstatement.

Subsequently, it was revealed that Beaman had been questioned about an allegation he



Tyrone Beaman

had solicited funds from two alumni, identified by a number of sources as being prominent Montgomery attorneys Charles Stakely and Truman Hobbs, Jr. Beaman denied the allegations that he sought money from the alumni to provide high school coaches and players in the Houston area with illegal recruiting inducements.

It is believed the alumni reported the request to the athletics director's office and it is known that Alabama moved swiftly, not only in its suspension of Beaman, but in notifying both the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA.

There is little doubt that Alabama contributed to its own problems with the NCAA in the football probe because of what was perceived as a lack of cooperation on the part of University officials in 1993 and 1994.

And while this time The University appears to have acted quickly, decisively and correctly in handling the matter, there is the possibility that every problem has not been revealed. Suppose Beaman (or someone else) did more than attempt to solicit funds with the intent to commit NCAA violations?

What, if any, effect will Bockrath's association with Texas Tech, currently under the NCAA gun, have on Alabama?

However, if the inquiry does not go beyond what is publicly known, it would appear the bottom line would be that Alabama did not sign anyone because of an illegal inducement; and if an illegal inducement was made, anyone who made it has since been fired.

Although not much good comes of an NCAA investigation, one bit of good news is that if Alabama's case reaches the Infractions Committee, Swank will almost certainly have to recuse himself. His bone-headed performance in the football probe resulted not only in him having to publicly humiliate himself with an apology and admission of ineptness, it also cost the NCAA dearly in terms of a settlement with former Athletics Chairman Tom Jones. The bottom line for Alabama football, though, was little change. The penalties, extraordinarily out of line for the violations, were reduced slightly, but for the most part could not be undone. Thus, Alabama, guilty of relatively minor sins of omission was grouped with such long-time accomplished cheaters as Auburn and Wichita State.

If it comes to it, there is the likelihood that Bama's past dealing with the NCAA will have taught Alabama that it needs to have the type attorneys who represented Jones, not the type who accomplished nothing for The University in the football investigation. The University should also be aware that its membership in the SEC under current leadership is basically worthless when it comes to assistance.

Because Alabama is currently under the five-year window of repeat offender status, if violations are uncovered in the basketball program, the basketball program would be eligible for the so-called death penalty. That is considered an unlikely penalty, but other penalties—including loss of scholarships—could be severe. The football program would not be affected by sanctions against another program.

Finally, A New Year Approaches

by Kirk McNair

All signs point to better 1998 than dismal 1997 in DuBose's first season

Former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings often noted that after a team suffered a loss, the players and coaches couldn't wait to play again so they could get the loss behind them. For Alabama's returning players and coaches, it has been a long wait.

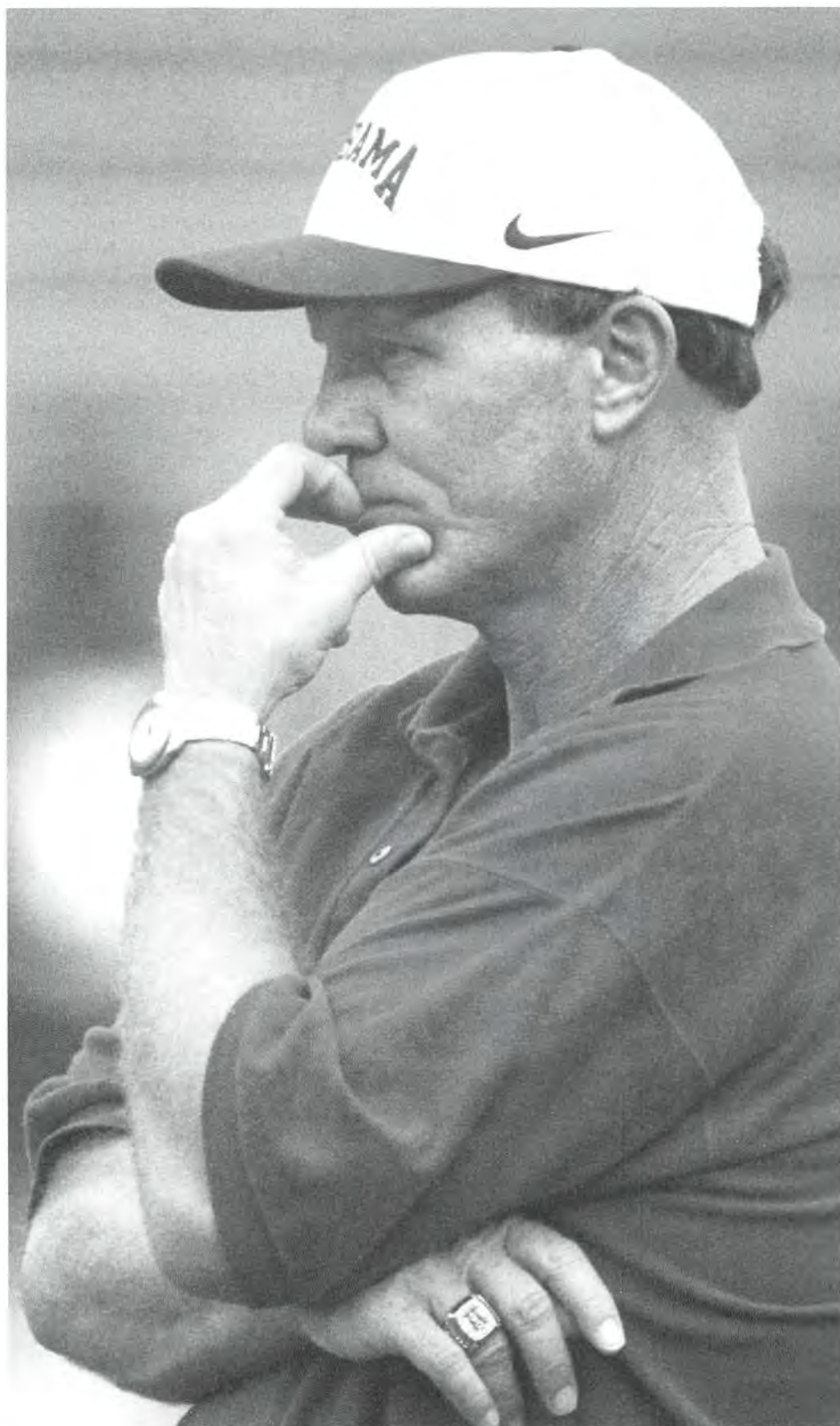
The next game isn't until September 5, when the Tide hosts Brigham Young University. However, the process of forgetting the miserable 1997 season and getting on with the 1998 campaign takes another big step in early August.

Newcomers—true freshmen and new junior college transfers—report Sunday, August 9, and begin two-a-day non-contact practices Monday, August 10. Returning varsity players report Wednesday, August 12, under go physical examinations Thursday, August 13, and the entire team begins two-a-day practices in shorts, shoulder pads and helmets Friday, August 14. Full speed contact work begins Tuesday, August 18. Mandatory one-a-day practices begin with the start of classes, Wednesday, August 26.

A team may have 105 players in drills prior to the start of classes. That limits the number of walk-on players who may come in with either the newcomers or the returning varsity players. The only thing known for sure about the incoming newcomers is that there will be 26 of them.

Head Coach Mike DuBose has confirmed that four of Bama's 30 signees will not be a part of the incoming class. He said Florida prep players Aries Monroe, a linebacker from Tallahassee Godby, and Johnovan Morgan, a tight end from Miami Carol City, had not achieved academic requirements. There have been published reports that both will attend junior college, Monroe at Coffeyville in Kansas, Morgan somewhere close to Kansas City, where his half-brother, former Tide star Derrick Thomas, plays for the Chiefs. Damien Jones, an all-around athlete from Prichard Vigor, signed a baseball contract with the Atlanta Braves and will

AUGUST '98/BAMA. Inside The Crimson Tide



Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose puts his second Crimson Tide football team on the field this fall. He is looking for a greatly-improved Bama. Barry Fikes Photo

not join the Tide football program. And Mario Monds, a defensive lineman from Hutchinson (Kansas) Junior College, did not graduate. He will stay in junior college and will be allowed to sign with any school when and if he is graduated from junior college. There have been reports that Alabama may not attempt to re-sign Monds in next year's recruiting class.

DuBose confirmed that Alabama would be bringing in 26 "signees," but since the NCAA limit on signees is 25, one of those 26 will not be on scholarship. The identity of that "invited walk-on" will remain a mystery. DuBose said, "Only two people know: me and his father." The player will be added to the scholarship rolls later, almost certainly as a secret 1999 signee.

One of the 26 newcomers will be a partial qualifier. Freshman defensive back Phillip Weeks of Union County High School in Lake Butler, Florida, did not meet full academic requirements, but did qualify to enter The University on scholarship. He may take

part in practices, but not games, and the year will count against him, although he could regain the lost year of eligibility if he meets academic progress requirements over the following three years.

DuBose said junior defensive back Thomas Hill of Meridian, Mississippi, who has had an injury-plagued career, has been put on medical hardship scholarship. Hill missed his second full spring practice this year after undergoing post-1997 season ankle surgery.

Another defensive back, redshirt freshman strong safety John Fielding of Augusta, Georgia, ruptured his Achilles tendon during summer workouts and will miss the upcoming season.

Junior place-kicker Ryan Pflugner of Sarasota, Florida, who missed most of last season and all of spring practice with a pulled muscle, has not yet made a full recovery and will not report for early fall practices, DuBose said.

Among several areas of concern as Bama prepares for the 1998 season is place-kicking, which was miserable through most of 1997 and nothing great at the conclusion of spring practice. One disappointment is that while a large number of returning players were in Tuscaloosa working out all summer, one who was not was a leading candidate to be the place-kicker, the one scholarshiped place-kicker on the team, A.J. Diaz. Other kickers were on campus during the summer, working out with their teammates.

General reports of summer progress have been very good. A number of players have reported good weight loss, including Jamie Carter down near the 300-pound range, Chris Samuels working at about 285. Quarterbacks, receivers and defensive backs worked together in the afternoons with John David Phillips the most impressive passer, wide receiver Michael Vaughn appearing to be 100 per cent (after missing last fall with a back injury and most of the spring with an elbow injury), and cornerback Antoine Hunter surprisingly effective as a cover man.

A couple of guys who missed spring practice with injuries, offensive tackle Sage Spree and defensive end Reggie Grimes, have spent the summer continuing to rehabilitate and both are expected to be able to go full speed when workouts begin.

There was also one prominent newcomer among those in summer workouts conducted by Strength and Conditioning Coach Terry Jones. Freshman quarterback Tyler Watts, considered by many fans to be the latest savior for Alabama football, was among those taking part in the strength, conditioning, and agility drills. *The Birmingham News* did a story on Watts' being in Tuscaloosa and DuBose decided after that story that Watts would have too much pressure on him if he was interviewed. Therefore, all freshmen have been placed off limits to the media.

It's interesting that in the modern era of Alabama football the two Crimson Tide coaches who have allowed reporters the most leeway to do their jobs, Paul Bryant and Stallings, have been the most successful, while the two who have spent the most time trying to manage the media, Ray Perkins and DuBose, have coached the only losing Alabama football seasons in the past 40 years.

DuBose had earlier announced that two players held out of spring practice in order to take care of undisclosed responsibilities would not be a part of the team this fall. Tight end Adam Joiner and offensive lineman Cory Kinnebrew were dismissed from the squad.

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Prior to the beginning of practice, DuBose put a few final touches on his coaching staff. Quarterbacks Coach Charlie Stubbs and Wide Receivers Coach Dabo Swinney were dispatched to Green Bay, Wisconsin, for meetings with Packers Head Coach Mike Holmgren. Stubbs has a coaching background with Holmgren and Alabama's passing offense this fall is expected to include elements Green Bay uses. (Terry Jones, a former Packer, also made the trek to Green Bay.)

DuBose also took his staff to an undisclosed location for a final few days in which, he said, the staff would "dot the Is and cross the Ts" on the practice itinerary.

Although most of the staff had some time off during the summer, DuBose stayed quite busy with personal appearances and his very successful tour of charity golf tournaments.

Although all assistant coaches were able to take a break from the office during the summer, Assistant Head Coach Ronnie Cottrell seemed to be on the job just about every day. That may be one reason that Bama picked up an early commitment from one of the top prospects in the state. Jeremy Walker, a 6-3, 245-pounder from Prattville, was listed by many publications as a linebacker or defensive end prospect, but he has committed to Alabama as a fullback. Last year he played offense as well as defense and rushed for 423 yards and seven touchdowns on 86 carries. He is an excellent student who has already scored a 25 on the ACT.

He was ranked the state's eighth best prospect by Freddie Kirby's "Pigskin Preps" and sixth on *The Birmingham News'* Super Dozen Seniors.

Alabama football has traditionally been a favorite of the television networks, and the Tide is already scheduled for a number of appearances, beginning with the opener. The BYU contest will be telecast on the national cable sports network, ESPN, with kickoff scheduled for 6:30 p.m. CDT. The Alabama-Auburn game from Birmingham's Legion Field on November 21 has also been selected for coverage by ESPN. Although the exact kickoff time has not been announced, it is expected to be a night game with kickoff shortly after 6 p.m. CST.

Bama's opening Southeastern Conference game, against Vanderbilt from Legion Field on September 12, will be on the SEC's affiliate, Jefferson-Pilot, with kickoff at 11:30 a.m. CDT.

CBS has announced two Alabama road games for telecast, at Tennessee on October AUGUST '98/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

24 and at LSU on November 7, but kickoff times have not been revealed. It is also believed that CBS will telecast the Alabama-Florida game from Bryant-Denny Stadium as part of a double-header with Tennessee-Auburn.

However, there may be one television disappointment. Alabama selected the Ole Miss game on October 10 for homecoming. In order to have time for all homecoming events, Alabama set the kickoff time at 2 p.m. CDT. Thus, the Tide used its one television "scratch" to take the Ole Miss game out of the potential television pool. A new SEC regulation prohibits a school from airing a game on a pay-per-view basis if it is not available for the SEC package.

Media predictions about the upcoming season have not been favorable for Alabama. However, it should be remembered that many such predictions are based on little analysis. When a fellow sports reporter suggested recently

that he thought Bama might finish last in the SEC Western Division, he was asked, "Now who is the quarterback at Mississippi State?" and "Who is the offensive coordinator at Arkansas?" and "Who's taking Avery's place at Ole Miss?" The blank stare that answered the questions revealed all that needed to be known about his study of the situation.

Still, it would be ridiculous to expect glowing predictions for a team that finished 4-7 last year. The primary factor in predicting is usually the record from the previous season. Beyond that, Alabama has a number of question marks, the most notable at the most important position on the field, quarterback. (However, this is a year in which a number of SEC teams are expected to be weaker at quarterback than they were last year. Bama will have a new quarterback, but won't necessarily be weaker at the position.)

LSU is the consensus choice to be SEC Western Division champion. Alabama has



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been picked in various pre-season polls to finish everywhere from second to sixth in the six-team division.

There is good news and bad news on the facilities front. The good news is all in Tuscaloosa, where an expanded Bryant-Denny Stadium surely ranks among the nation's most beautiful. Although work may go right up until the September 5 opener, that work is primarily finishing touches, including landscaping around the stadium. New seats and the 81 new sky-boxes will all be ready. And with the final seats installed, official capacity is now 83,817, about 500 more than had been expected last spring and in excess of 1,700 more than originally estimated. Prior to this \$31 million expansion, capacity was 70,123.

The one area of the stadium which may not be completed is the scoreboard. Athletics Director Bob Bockrath said he hoped the state-of-the-art scoreboard which includes a 21-foot by 40-foot Sony Jumbotron screen for replays would be operational for the first game.

Meanwhile, the bad news is that it appears Legion Field in Birmingham will be declared safe for 83,091 fans. After it was revealed that steel and concrete were deteriorating and disclosed that concrete had fallen on a fan a couple of years ago, the City of Birmingham put through a rush repair job and announced in mid-July that everything would be fine. Bockrath had earlier declared that if the city said the stadium was safe, Alabama would play its three scheduled games in Legion Field.

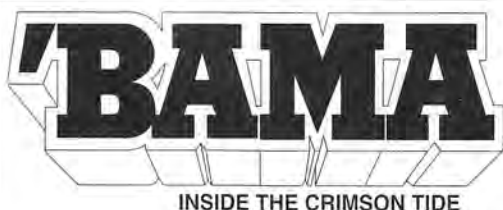
Meanwhile, a new issue in Birmingham concerned paint in the end zones. Alabama, which is the tenant paying the bills at Legion Field, has the right to signage, including the end zone painting. Traditionally, the word "Alabama" in red has been painted in the end zones. Now Alabama-Birmingham's football team, which is supported in great part by City of Birmingham, wants UAB painted in the end zones when the Blazers play in Legion Field. A problem is that grass can only be painted so many times before it dies. Birmingham's Park and Recreation Board is studying the situation.

Since Bockrath didn't accept the gift opportunity to pull out of Birmingham last spring when it was learned the stadium was (and had been) unsafe, it may be he won't consider this an issue and will allow the end zones to be painted with the word "Birmingham," or perhaps "Legion Field."

Alabama has four more seasons in which it is contracted to play games in Birmingham.

1998 Alabama Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	Central Time (Television)
Sept. 5	Brigham Young	Tuscaloosa	6:30 (ESPN)
Sept. 12	Vanderbilt	Birmingham	11:30 (Jefferson-Pilot)
Sept. 26	Arkansas	Fayetteville	To be announced
Oct. 3	Florida	Tuscaloosa	To be announced
Oct. 10	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa	2:00
Oct. 17	East Carolina	Birmingham	2:00
Oct. 24	Tennessee	Knoxville	Time to be announced (CBS)
Oct. 31	Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa	2:00
Nov. 7	LSU	Baton Rouge	To be announced (CBS)
Nov. 14	Mississippi State	Starkville	To be announced
Nov. 21	Auburn	Birmingham	To be announced (ESPN)
	SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME		
Dec. 5	TBA	Atlanta	7:00 (ABC)



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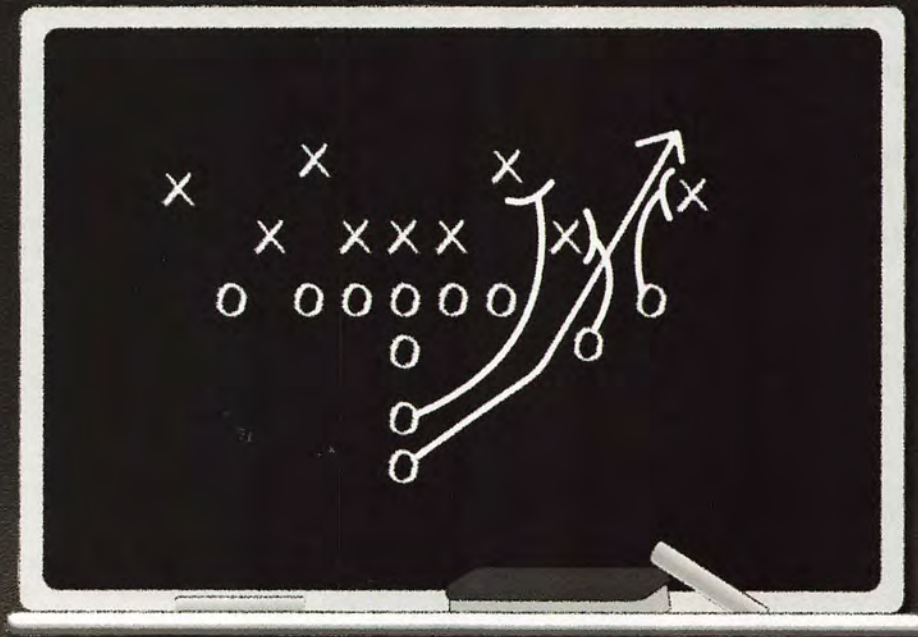
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Getting Stronger At Linebacker

by Donald F. Staffo

All things being relative, upcoming senior has the genes to be a good one

If one concludes that family ties had something to do with Steve Stanley being an Alabama football player, that would be understandable. After all, Stanley's bloodline includes an uncle and six cousins who

are former Crimson Tide players. Stanley is the nephew of former quarterback Walter Lewis and his cousins include the four Goode brothers—halfback Kerry, defensive backs Chris and Clyde, and wide receiver Pierre—as well as fullback Tarrant Lynch and cornerback Antonio Langham.

However, Stanley said, "A lot of people think they had a lot to do with my coming to Alabama, but they really had very little to do with it. It was my choice. We really didn't talk about it a lot. They just told me to go where it would be best for me, because I would be the one who had to live with it."

However, all those years of going to Crimson Tide games to see his relatives may

have had an impact on Stanley's decision. "There was just something about Alabama that we all liked," he said. "It was probably expected that I go to Alabama. I followed Alabama football and knew what it was all about. I liked the tradition. I came from a winning program in high school (Colbert County in Leighton) and I wanted to continue playing in a winning program."

In 1995, Stanley picked the Crimson Tide over Auburn and Mississippi State.

A three-year starter at quarterback and a four-year starter at defensive back in high school, Stanley led Colbert County to back-to-back state championships, twice was named 3A first team all-state, twice 3A state player of the year, and was a *Blue Chip* All-America. As a senior he rushed for 1,089 yards, passed for 1,600 yards and accounted for 23 touchdowns. On defense he turned in 16 pass interceptions. He also showed his athletic ability as a second team all-state player in basketball and by setting state records in the long jump and triple jump as a member of the track and field team.

It's understandable that Alabama recruited Stanley as an athlete without regard to position. Other schools recruited him either for offense or defense. When he signed with Alabama he said that he wanted to be placed on defense. "It was my choice," he said. "I never tried to be in the spotlight (of the quarterback position)."

Most of Stanley's relative/predecessors at Alabama earned starting jobs, and Stanley joined that starters' club last year. And this year the 6-3, 215-pound senior goes into fall work as the number one man at strongside linebacker, and hopes to make his mark as a Crimson Tider.

In 1995 he was one of five true freshmen to see playing time, most of it on special teams and a little as a safety. He's been a linebacker since about midway through his sophomore year in 1996. "Coach (Jeff) Rouzie asked me how I felt about moving to linebacker," Stanley explained. "He said I had a big frame and could play the position if I gained weight." At the time Stanley weighed 193.

Stanley said, "I told Coach Rouzie that if I could contribute to the team that it really didn't matter where I played." He saw action in eight of 11 games in 1996, again much of it on special teams but also as a linebacker. He had a season-high of 30 snaps against Kentucky. The following spring he earned the Woodrow Lowe Most Improved Linebacker Award.

Late last season he moved into a starting role, opening at strongside linebacker in five of the Tide's final six games. He had reason-



Steve Stanley was a top prospect coming out of Colbert County High School and he wanted to be a defensive player. He started out as a safety, but now he's Bama's starting strongside linebacker.

Barry Fikes Photo

ably good statistics with 29 tackles, two caused fumbles, one pass break-up, one quarterback pressure and one tackle for a 14-yard loss. He had a career-high eight tackles against Tennessee and four each against LSU and Mississippi State.

But while Stanley came to Alabama in part because of the winning tradition, last year he was part of a shocking 4-7 team. "It's hard to conceive Alabama going 4-7," Stanley said. "I never believed it could happen. It's still hard to believe. A lot of people were down on us and it was a hard year."

"We expect this year to be much different. We have our goals set pretty high. At Alabama, the goal is always to win the national championship. But we really want to start out by winning our first game against BYU and just take it from there."

Stanley said the basic difference between free safety and strongside linebacker is that the free safety plays pass defense first and then run defense, while the strongside linebacker's primary responsibility is against the run, but that the position also requires considerable pass defense responsibility. "At linebacker I have to stop the run, but in certain (passing) situations I might have to cover a wide receiver, a tight end, or a man coming out of the backfield."

Ellis Johnson, Bama's defensive coordinator and coach of the outside linebackers, said, "To play his position, you have to be two-dimensional. You have to survive against the tight end against the run and you have to cover the backs and tight ends on pass coverage. That's only the starting point. If you can't do both those things, you can't play the position."

Johnson said Stanley was still feeling his way at linebacker last season, but that he made the transition and began to play "with a linebacker mentality" during the spring. "He's got good football knowledge," Johnson said. "He picks things up real well. You don't have to go over something two or three times with Steve."

Johnson said that Stanley's performance in 1998 will probably be in correlation to how hard he worked during the summer. "He can be a really, really good outside linebacker in our scheme," Johnson said. "I don't consider him a dominator, but I do consider him a very effective linebacker. How well he plays will have a lot to do with our success on defense."

Stanley spent the summer attempting to increase his upper body strength, the thing he thinks is most critical to his overall improvement. "I've got speed and quickness (4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash), but not a

lot of size to play outside linebacker," he said. "The coaches tell me that I've got pretty good lower body strength (405-pound squat), but I need to get more upper body strength to take on those 260-pound tight ends we see so often now." He spent almost three hours each weekday during the summer lifting in the weight room in order to improve his 310-pound bench press. He also did footwork and agility drills, as well as speed and conditioning work.

Johnson said, "Steve is lean, so he has a size and strength disadvantage against tight ends. He is a real good coverage linebacker. He's very good at man-to-man coverage. He matches up real well with tight ends and backs coming out on pass patterns and adequately with wide receivers, although we would never line him up on their best wide receiver."

"But to become a good SEC-type player, Steve needs to get physically stronger, play the run better, and work hard to be a good technique player."

Stanley said the highlight of his Alabama career so far is the two fumbles he caused in last year's Ole Miss game at Oxford. "That kind of helped turn the game around when we were behind and we ended up winning," he said. "I need to give us more of that this year."

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Tim Bowens:

He Hears Opportunity Knocking

by Austin Dare

Junior flanker has had success on special teams

The start of a new college football season brings with it hope for a successful season to teams across the country and an opportunity for young players, eager for more playing time, to earn a spot in their teams' regular rotation.

The Alabama Crimson Tide and junior flanker Tim Bowens are no different. The

Tide, anxious to rebound from a dismal 4-7 season a year ago, fired and hired several coaches. Quite noticeable are those new coaches on the offensive side of the ball, new men brought in in an attempt to revamp an ineffective and inconsistent 1997 offense.

With the elevation of Neil Callaway from offensive line coach to offensive coordinator, the hiring of former Florida State assistant Ronnie Cottrell as tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator, and the hiring of Charlie Stubbs as quarterback coach, it's clear Head Coach Mike DuBose is placing a strong emphasis on the offense in 1998.

It also means several young players have the opportunity to prove their mettle and earn spots in the Tide's 1998 rotation.

Bowens, a Brooks High School graduate, wasn't going to let opportunity's knock go unanswered. A strong spring training, which saw Bowens play despite a painful hip flexor injury, established the 6-1, 190-pound Killen native as a receiver capable of making plays from his Z-flanker position. When spring drills ended, Bowens was third on the depth chart behind Calvin Hall and Quincy Jackson at that position.

To the casual observer, being third on the depth chart behind two proven veterans might not seem like much, but with Alabama employing more three and four wide receiver sets, Bowens knows he will have ample opportunity for increased playing time provided he continues to work hard and improve.

"I think I will have an opportunity to step up in the new offensive system," said Bowens. "The coaches give you an opportunity to produce and, if you do, you get rewarded with more playing time."

Bowens said the new offensive system reminds him of a "West Coast-type offense" with short, quick routes requiring quarterback and receivers alike to be able to read a defense and adjust routes accordingly.

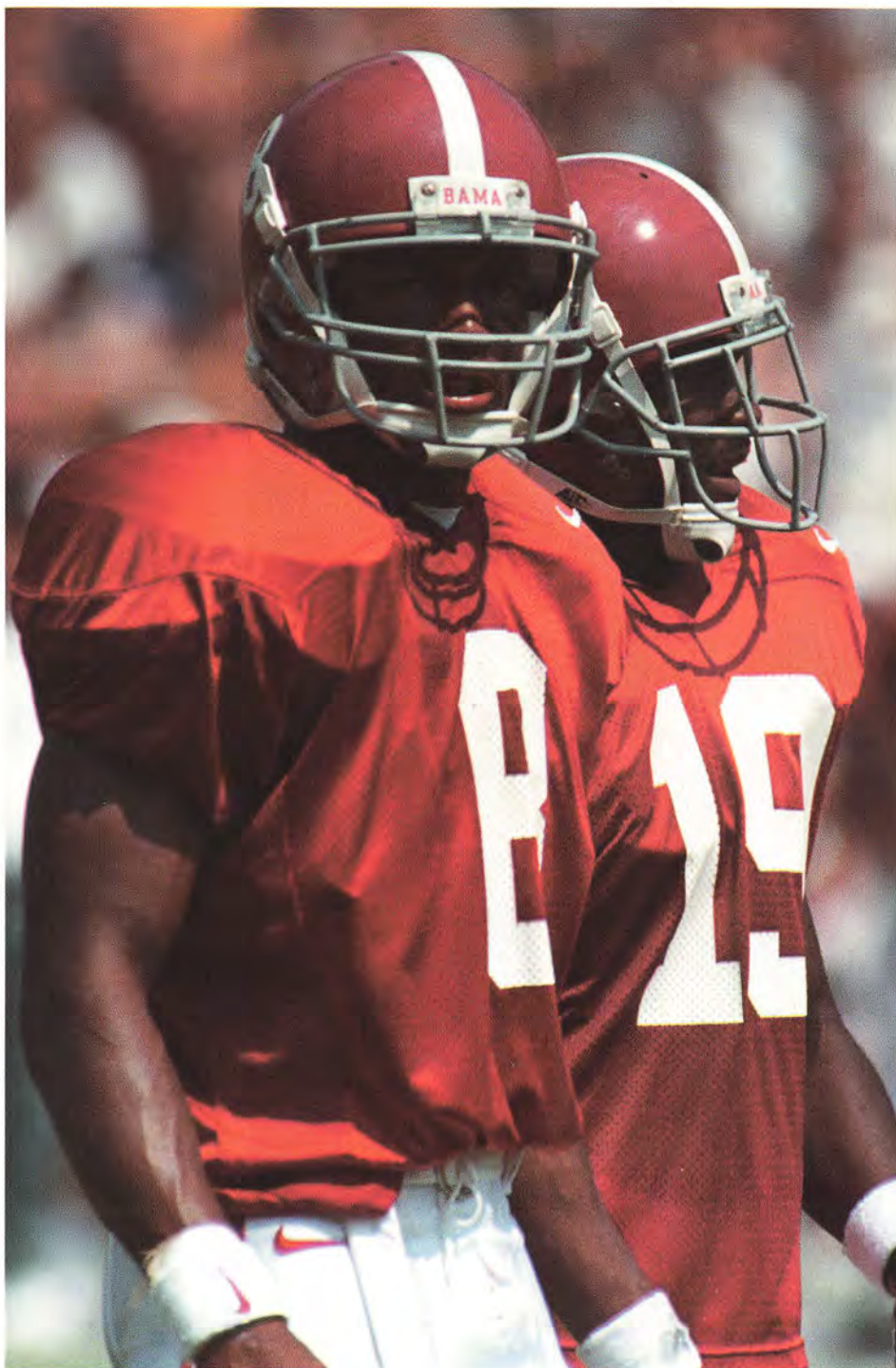
"We are running a lot of shorter, quicker routes," said Bowens, a two-time Alabama 4A all-state selection. "I wouldn't be surprised to see us throw the ball 60 to 70 percent of the time this year, but the receivers and quarterbacks have to develop a feel for one another because so much of our passing game is predicated on timing and running precise routes."

"Each player feeds off another in this of-

Tim Bowens had another strong spring and with a new offense putting emphasis on wide receivers, his playing time should increase dramatically in 1998.

Barry Fikes Photo

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST '98



fense and it really has been easy making the switch to the new offense because the players like it so much and the coaches have so much enthusiasm."

In Alabama's three receiver sets, Bowens said the Tide employs two flankers and a split end.

According to Bowens, the "Z" flanker always goes in motion, lines up inside on the two receiver side and as the middle man on the three receiver side in a four receiver set. The "F" flanker can also go in motion, but mostly lines up outside and off the ball. The split end always lines up on the ball.

"During the spring," said Bowens, "the receivers spent a lot of time getting a feel for the quarterbacks and getting the timing down on routes."

"The one thing we learned quickly was you had to be in shape to play in this offense and we have hit the weight training and conditioning pretty hard."

Because of injuries and the loss of scholarships due to NCAA sanctions, the Tide was left with only five scholarship wide receivers during spring drills, meaning Bowens, Hall, Jackson, Jason McAddley, and Shamari Buchanan got plenty of reps in practice.

"Coach Jones (Strength and Conditioning Coach Terry Jones) has done an excellent job getting us in shape," said Bowens. "I believe I'm in the best shape of my life."

With 4.6 speed in the 40-yard dash, Bowens admits he's "definitely not the fastest guy on the team," and so he relies on strong, soft hands to make difficult catches in traffic, and he runs precise routes to break away from defenders. "If you throw the ball in my direction, I'll go get it," he said.

As a highly recruited receiver coming out of high school, Bowens knew a lot about snaring balls thrown in his direction catching 58 passes for 810 yards and 14 touchdowns as a prep senior. Those impressive figures had the likes of Notre Dame, Auburn, Tennessee and Georgia, as well as Alabama, vying for his services.

"I chose Alabama because I wanted my family to be able to see me play," said Bowens who has three brothers playing high school football this year. "Plus, I wanted to go to a school where I knew a lot of people."

Despite those impressive prep credentials, Bowens' first two years at The Capstone didn't offer him much of an opportunity to showcase his offensive capabilities as he caught just one pass for 19 yards while making the transition from high school to the college level.

But Bowens did find another way to make an immediate impact—as a steady, reliable special teams performer.

"Coach (Curley) Hallman was pushing me to make the switch to the defensive backfield," said Bowens, a versatile athlete who averaged 17 points per game as a basketball player for Brooks High School, "and he put me on special teams. It wasn't a situation where I volunteered, but I'm glad I got the opportunity to help the team."

Performing on kickoffs, punt returns, and punt coverage, Bowens was one of only two true freshmen to see game action in 1996. He recorded two tackles in 1996 and six in 1997. For his efforts, Bowens was awarded the Ozzie Newsome Award in the spring of 1997 being recognized by Bama assistant coaches as the most improved freshman.

"Special teams is all hustle," said Bowens, who is responsible for outside containment on kickoffs and lines up as an end on punt returns keeping an eye open for fake punts. "You can't relax for an instant because one big play on special teams can turn the game around in a hurry. So it's important you stay focused."

With his impressive performance in the spring, Bowens is expected to see more playing time at the receiver position in the fall, meaning his special teams days may be a thing of the past.

"I suspect I'll be concentrating primarily on receiving," said Bowens, "but if they need me on special teams I'm ready to do it."

That willingness to be a team player helped make the transition from high school to college easier for Bowens, but he said nothing in high school prepared him for the challenge of being a student/athlete.

"It was really difficult juggling classes, football and a social life," said Bowens, who is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity on campus. "I think a lot of high school

coaches don't realize how different everything is when you get to college, because many of them haven't played or coached at this level."

Realizing many student/athletes are overwhelmed by the college experience as freshmen, Bowens switched his major to Secondary Education because, when his playing days are over, he would like to teach and coach high school football.

"I'd like to teach and coach because I think I could help athletes make the transition to college because I've played at that level," said Bowens. "My oldest brother (Quinton) is a senior and he's being recruited, so I go home and give him as much advice as I can."

But with teaching and coaching in the distant future, Bowens will concentrate on playing right now and taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the coaching staff.

With continued hard work and perseverance, those opportunities may allow Bowens to showcase his versatility like he did during his junior year of high school.

With his Brooks team trailing 29-7 in the fourth quarter to East Lawrence, Bowens took control of what he calls a "dream game." He scored twice and converted a two-point conversion to cut the deficit to 29-23 then threw the game-winning 14-yard touchdown pass to Casey Carnes as Brooks rallied for a 30-29 victory.

When the dust settled, Bowens accumulated 337 yards of total offense, 159 receiving, 122 passing and 56 rushing. In addition, he recorded 17 tackles from his safety position and intercepted one pass.

"I dream of having a game like that at the college level," said Bowens.

If he does, it may set the stage for a "dream season" for the Crimson Tide in 1998.



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Kenny Smith:

Thinking Ahead

by Kirk McNair

After poor spring, soph defensive end spent his summer trying to improve

Many Alabama football fans are also quite interested in recruiting, and most of them agonized during late January and early February of 1997 as Kenny Smith decided on his college choice. Would it be Florida, the team he said he wanted to join? Would it be Georgia Tech, the team his father was said to favor? Could it possibly be Alabama, where his mother wanted to see him play?

One person who wasn't in agony was Kenny Smith. "That was one of the best times of my life," he said. "Coaches are calling you from everywhere and you realize you are blessed with ability that is going to enable you to go to college anywhere you want to go."

He finally decided to go to Alabama.

"I chose Alabama because it was a defensive school," he said. "And it was close to home." While he said he almost went with Florida, he added, "I made the right decision. I have no regrets at all." Being only 85 miles from home means he can make frequent trips to Meridian, Mississippi, and his family can see him play.

Smith wasn't an Alabama fan growing up. "I was a fan of Michigan," he said. "But mainly my connection to college football was watching television, and I was attracted to the big games. I particularly remember the Alabama-Miami Sugar Bowl (January 1, 1993). I liked big games and big teams."

It was a big day for Tide fans when Smith announced for the Crimson Tide. He had been a four-year starter as a defensive end (he also played "a little" tight end in his prep career) and as a senior was named Mississippi Defensive Player of the Year. In that senior campaign he had 172 tackles, including 65 solo stops and 10 sacks, and caused and recovered two fumbles (one of

Kenny Smith had a very good first season for Alabama, including earning a starting job. But he wants to be better and wants Bama to be better, and he thinks the Tide will be much-improved in 1998.

Barry Fikes Photo

which he returned 25 yards for a touchdown). He had already made a name for himself as a junior when he had 67 solo tackles, six sacks, seven fumble recoveries, nine fumbles caused and six passes broken up.

Smith had also been an outstanding prep basketball and baseball player. He doesn't miss basketball, which he said he played just to stay in shape (although he averaged 20 points a game). But last spring when he went to an Alabama baseball game he realized how much he missed baseball. In fact, he said he couldn't stand to go back and just watch any more games. Smith, who hit over .450 each of his last two seasons at Meridian, hopes to eventually try out with the Bama baseball team.

Smith settled in quickly as a key member of the Crimson Tide defense last year, despite not being fully prepared for what it was like to play for Alabama. "I went into shock when we went out on the field against Houston," he said. "I couldn't believe the crowd and the noise. But I knew I had to get ready to play or I'd get

smashed."

Smith saw action on 15 plays in that opening game, played in all 11 contests, and midway into the season he had evolved into a starter, getting the first string nod in four of Bama's final five games. For the season he was in on 30 tackles, including 16 solo, and had seven tackles behind the line for 25 yards in opponent losses. He added two quarterback sacks. He caused one fumble and had five quarterback pressures.

"I got my first sack in the Southern Miss game," he said. "The funny thing is, I didn't think about it until I got to the sidelines and then it hit me that I had made a big play. It was a good feeling." He had perhaps his best game against LSU when he was in on 69 plays and had seven tackles, including two for lost yardage.

He was quite aware of the change from high school to college football. "I was working against bigger guys and more experienced players," he said. "For the most part I was going against juniors and seniors who had been through a few seasons of college ball. The only two freshmen I went against were Terrence Metcalf at Ole Miss and

Kendall Simmons at Auburn." Ironically, both Metcalf and Simmons were former Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game teammates of Smith.

This summer was also a big change for Smith. Prior to entering Alabama in 1997, Smith said he "kind of relaxed." This summer he went to interim and both sessions of summer school, staying in Tuscaloosa all summer in order to get ahead in his classwork and work out.

He said his primary purpose in staying on campus was "to get better." A typical day was a 6:30 a.m. wake-up, a workout of lifting and running beginning at 7 a.m., and classes beginning at 10 a.m.

Smith, who is 6-5 and 285, had some motivation to remain in Tuscaloosa during the summer in an attempt to improve. He did not emerge from spring practice as an improved football player.

"We had a new position coach (Jackie Shipp), and that meant new things to learn," Smith said. "It was kind of hard at the beginning of spring training to get used to what he was teaching us. Every time I messed up, Coach Shipp got on me pretty



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good, which is what a coach is supposed to do. It was primarily a matter of understanding. I didn't know my reads well enough to just react on the play. I was having to think instead of react, and that got me in trouble. The time for thinking is long before the game so you can just react in the game.

"Since spring training ended, I've given a lot of thought to what I did right and what I did wrong. I had a nice talk with Coach Shipp and I got some tapes of pro practices and pro games that show me the correct techniques. It makes a lot of sense when you see it like that.

"I wanted to have a good spring, but it didn't work out that way," Smith said. "But I'm not going to dwell on the past. I've worked hard this summer to get better—to get stronger and faster and to learn my assignments. When fall practice begins, I'll work hard to get my techniques down so I can be ready to play."

Among other bad things that Smith is not going to dwell on is the 4-7 record Alabama had last year. "We had a bad season, but it happens to everyone," he said. "It just doesn't happen to Alabama very often, which makes it stand out. We had a lot of unfortunate things happen early, such as Michael Vaughn getting hurt and Michael Myers having to leave the team. That really disappointed me, because I had hoped to be able to line up next to Myers and only got a few chances to do that."

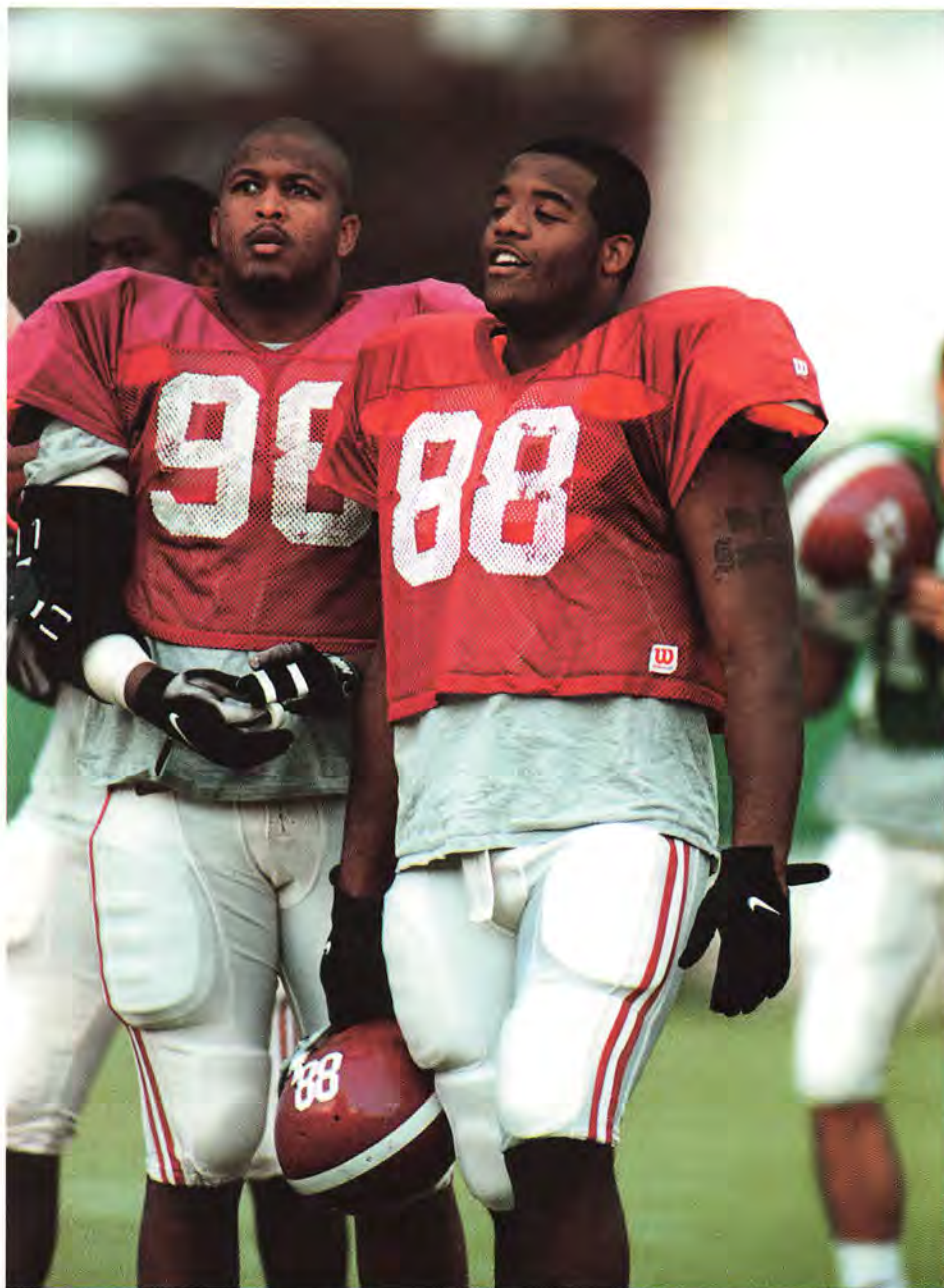
He said he senses a positive attitude among the players going into the 1998 season. "I think we'll go out and do good things," he said. "I know we have a lot of good new players coming in this year, but even with just the players we have back from last year I have noticed a real good attitude in the off-season, during spring practice and in work this summer."

He expects Alabama to have a much better year than in his first campaign. "We lost several games last year that we should have won," he said. "We need to win those games this year, and I think we will."

He said, "The offense is going to put up a lot of points, and the defense should be harder to score on this year. I thought the defense was better in the spring than it was last fall, even with the players we lost and even without Reggie (defensive end Reggie Grimes, who missed spring work recovering from an injury)."

Smith doesn't know who will be his primary competition for a starting job this spring. Indeed, he doesn't even know what position he will play.

"If we are in a 3-4, I'll be an end," he said. "If we are in a 4-3, I could be an end or a tackle." Somewhat surprisingly, Smith said he prefers tackle to end. "I like tackle because you are close to the quarterback," he



Kenny Smith (88) thinks Alabama's defense was better in the spring than it had been in the fall, even though Smith himself did not have a good spring and another returning starting defensive end, Reggie Grimes (98) missed spring practice while recovering from an injury. Barry Fikes Photo

said. "You can take a quick step and be on him. At end you've got a lot of contain responsibility because you can't let the quarterback get outside." He also said that there could be situations where he would be at nose tackle in a 3-4 defense when the opposing offense has long yardage and Alabama needs a quicker front line.

He said his competition could come from an incoming player or from any of a handful of ends and tackles. "I don't worry about the competition," he said. "I just go out and try to do my part to help the team. I think everyone on this team feels that way.

Hopefully I'll be the starter and I plan to work as hard as I can to be the starter, but the main thing we want is everyone doing his best to help us win games."

He said he knew he won some awards as a freshman, but said "I don't really keep up with that." For the record, he was a Freshman All-America by *The Sporting News* and Freshman All-Southeastern Conference by the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

He said, it would be "nice" to be an All-America one day. "To do that takes a lot of hard work," he said. "I'm going to work hard."

New Class Ready To Come Aboard

by James Edwards

Summer provides mostly good news on academic and athletic fronts

Among the many pieces of the puzzle of putting a football team together is that of incoming players who are being counted on. A veteran team has less concern about this than a rebuilding team, but any school that has much slippage in adding new players will eventually face hardships.

Alabama's recruiting class last year was ranked among the nation's best. It is important that those players continue to work out to be in the best possible condition. However, the best player doesn't help if he isn't academically eligible. Thus the interest in academics this summer.

When the dust settled last February, Alabama had not signed the NCAA limit of 25 players. Head Coach Mike DuBose had allowed his staff to add 30 new names. At the time it was known that only 25 could enter Alabama on scholarship. Without being specific, DuBose said at the time that if more than 25 were academically qualified "We have a plan."

The first loss from the recruiting class came with the Major League Baseball draft this spring. Damien Jones of Prichard, Ala., who was projected as a wide receiver or defensive back, signed with the Atlanta Braves. Midway through the summer it was reported that two Florida players, linebacker Aries Monroe of Tallahassee and tight end Johnovan Morgan of Miami Carol City, would not meet academic requirements and would likely attend junior college. Both are expected to attend junior college. Monroe reportedly at Coffeyville in Kansas and Morgan somewhere close to Kansas City, Missouri, to be close to his half brother, former Tide star and current All-Pro Kansas City Chiefs star Derrick Thomas. It was also reported that defensive lineman Mario Monds of Hutchinson (Kansas) Community College would not graduate and thus would not enter before next January (although he is not going to automatically re-sign with Bama).

There are still a few question marks as the August 9 reporting date nears.

Defensive back Phillip Weeks of Lake Butler (Florida) Union County needed just one point on the ACT to be declared qualified. Shontua Ray, had passed the ACT, but



Marvin Constant

was still attending summer school and awaiting word from the NCAA Clearing House. Three junior college transfers—Canary Knight, Miguel Merritt, and Kenric Lott—had to complete graduation requirements, but were expected to do that. Another, Cornelius Griffin, had successfully completed his requirements. There were unsubstantiated reports that Theo Sanders might not be eligible, but several sources said Sanders had completed his requirements.

If a player is not eligible, but meets partial qualifying requirements, it is possible for him to enter school on scholarship and take part in practice, but not in games. A Southeastern Conference school may admit up to two partial qualifiers in football.

From the way everything is playing out, expect as many as 26 players to enroll in the fall if everyone in question qualifies. Offensive lineman Lanis Baxley of Jonesboro, Georgia, who originally planned to enroll in January, has been working out religiously and has his strength up 30 pounds on the bench press. He also is standing 6-7 and weighing 283 (up 28 pounds from signing day) and has been told to report in August. He hasn't lost any quickness and has the coaches thinking that he may not have to be redshirted.

Some of the signees have made their way to Tuscaloosa at times this year to work out and stay focused on their role on the team. A few of them were working to get ready for the state all-star games in which they had been chosen. Some (notably quarterback Tyler Watts of Pelham) decided to enroll in school this summer to get some tough classes out of the way, and also to get started with the weight training and get acquainted with future teammates.

Alabama signees put up some good performances and showed why they were invited to become the future Crimson Tiders in various all-star games this summer. The players participated in four different border state match ups: Alabama-Mississippi, Tennessee-Kentucky, Georgia-Florida, and Maryland-Virginia.

The Alabama - Mississippi game was supposed to be a showcase where Watts would get to display why everyone had him ranked so highly all season long. However, it did not work out that way for a number of reasons. The game committee allowed blitzing this year and no matter who you are, you're not going to put in an effective blocking scheme in a maximum of four days, no matter how much talent you have collected. Mother Nature played a major role also for it rained from the middle of the first quarter forward and that put a halt to a passing game plan. Another reason was the speed at receiver, which in this case was nil.

The Alabama signees on the Alabama team did have some good performances, especially by Shontua Ray. He had some exciting runs and almost broke a couple, but he did lay the wet football on the turf twice which put a damper on his appraisal after the game. Offensive linemen, Bart Raulston and Marico Portis had their moments but Raulston was nursing an ankle injury he suffered in all-star practice, while Portis appeared to be a little out of shape.

Defensively, Darius Gilbert stood out and was very active pursuing plays from behind, stopping sweeps at the line of scrimmage, and also dropping back into pass coverage. Marvin Constant was a fan favorite all week and probably got the biggest roar from the Alabama faithful when he discarded his jersey and pads and displayed his Mr. Universe build. His game performance was one where he did his job and had a fun time in the process.

The Alabama Most Valuable Player was Lane Bearden, who played wide receiver and punter at Pelham High School. He was chosen as a participant in the game as the punter, but he played as much receiver as the other wide-outs. He averaged around 44 yards punting in the game and considering the conditions that was excellent. He is planning on joining the Crimson Tide as a walk-on this fall.

The Mississippi sideline contained two more Alabama signees and they were excellent. Defensive back Reggie Myles was the most polished player in the game and he had by far the best game of all the signees. He just barely missed intercepting two passes which he would have easily returned for pay-dirt, and he was not beaten the entire night. He was fooled once when Watts faked a hitch-and-go on the out-break by the receiver, Myles bit on the fake, but to prevent

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a big play he reached out and grabbed the receiver as he was turning up field and got penalized. Myles said after the game that he was making sure he gave up only the penalty yardage and not a touchdown. He also returned punts in this game and came within one block of breaking two of them.

Freddie Milons played quarterback and showed flashes of his ability, but was held in check much of the night. The Mississippi offense was reduced to handing the ball off to the big backs after the rain started, and let their dominating offensive front just wear down the Alabama defensive front. Mississippi won the game 9-0 on three field goals.

The Georgia-Florida game that was held inside the Georgia Dome was a classic display of enormous talent on both sides of the ball. Georgia kicked a game winning field goal on the last play of the game to win 23-21.

Alabama had one member on each sideline, Lanis Baxley (Georgia) and Phillip Weeks (Florida). Both of these players had great weeks of practice and surprised a lot of evaluators who had rated them somewhat lower than many of their respective teammates. One reporter said in his opinion, Weeks was the highlight of all the practices with his quickness to the ball, and his reckless hits that caught the attention of even the coaches. "He's going to be the steal of the year for Alabama and the one that got overlooked by the Florida schools," said reporter. In the game he was excellent on special teams. He played at cornerback and safety and was in on five tackles. Baxley was the biggest surprise at the Georgia scrimmages. When he reported at 283 pounds it was a pleasant bonus for the Georgia side. Georgia coaches were impressed with his quickness off the ball. He was used several times as a pulling guard, and he would get out in front and lead the play with his excellent speed.

The Tennessee-Kentucky contest brought about some relief for some Alabama fans who thought that Victor Ellis and Ahmad Galloway were just good kids who were fortunate enough to be involved in this year's recruiting class. Those doubts were put to rest after the game because the talk of the game was Victor Ellis. Coming out of Chattanooga's Red Bank High School, many felt he couldn't be very good for he only had offers from Chattanooga and Tennessee Tech before Alabama came calling. In the game he had six tackles, one interception, and a fumble recovery which he returned for a 24-yard touchdown. That performance earned him the game's MVP on defense.

Galloway had a typical game for him, which is steady, consistent, and durable. He played in the backfield with future teammate Eric Locke, who played quarterback and had some very exciting plays. After the game a crowd of happy spectators were cheering in victory as the bus was departing the stadium. The three Alabama signees started a loud cheer of "Roll Tide," which

dampened the enthusiasm of many Tennessee supporters. Another top Tide signee from Tennessee, Kindal Moorehead, opted not to play in this contest, but was scheduled to play in the East-West Tennessee game.

The Maryland - Virginia game had one Tide signee, fullback Marvin Brown. He got going in the second half with a couple of solid runs but he is known for his crushing blocks and he did nothing to disappoint in this game.

In Coach Mike DuBose's first year, 21 non-scholarshipped players saw playing time for the Crimson Tide. Bama recognizes the importance of a strong walk-on program. This year three extremely talented kickers have stated they will enroll in Tuscaloosa. Leading the way is place-kicker Mark Wisniewski, of Bishop Kinney High School in Jacksonville, Florida. He has a very powerful leg and could very well win the place-kicking job since DuBose has not been satisfied in that area. Wisniewski had a career long 61 yarder in his senior year. Although Bama would seem to be in good shape at punter with Daniel Pope back for his senior season, two fine walk-ons plan to challenge. In addition to Lane Bearden of Pelham, a new competitor is expected to be Brian Barlow from Copiah-Lincoln Junior College in Mississippi, who , and ranked second in the nation last year.

There will also be at least two new receiver prospects. Jay Stubbs is the son of new quarterback coach, Charlie Stubbs. Word has it that he turned down two WAC scholarships to join his dad in Tuscaloosa.

Jay Pierce, who was recruited by Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Duke and South Carolina, but offered only by Alabama A&M, entered Alabama this summer and intends to walk on with both the football and track teams. He's a 6-2, 180-pound wide receiver from Jasper Walker. He had 500 yards and nine touchdowns receiving his senior season and was 6A state champion in the 300 hurdles.

The most publicized player who was planning on joining this group was tight end, Hunter Williams of Lawrence County High School in Moulton. The 6-6, 245-pounder had agreed to play for Coach Ronnie Cottrell as a tight end, but he has since had a change of heart. His first love is baseball and he had a super senior year. He batted .540 with 15 homers and led the state in doubles. He was selected to play in the Baseball All-Star game and he has signed a baseball scholarship with Shoals Community College in Muscle Shoals.

For the first time in quite a few years there was excitement and suspense surrounding the Alabama Football Camp. Fans have been hearing for years about all this talent that attends the camps at other schools and wondered why Alabama wasn't attracting the top names.

That is nothing but a bad memory now, for several players who will be sought after this coming recruiting year were on campus.

Among those who were in Bama's camp and who will be on recruiting lists this year are (by position):

Quarterbacks Justin Barnes, 6-3, 180, of Chattanooga (Tennessee) Red Bank; Willie Simmons, 6-2, 187, of Quincy (Florida) Shanks; Glen Kannapel, 6-4, 195, of Louisville (Kentucky) Waggener.

Wide receivers Antonio "A.C." Carter, 5-9, 180, of Tallahassee (Florida) Rickards; Victor Horn, 6-1, 204, of Huntsville Johnson.

Running back Devin Rispress, 5-10, 185, of Tallahassee Rickards.

Fullback Jeremy Walker, 6-3, 245, Prattville. (Walker became the first player of the year to commit to Alabama when he announced July 18 that he would sign with the Tide in February.)

Tight ends Clay Cleveland, 6-4, 240, of Daphne; Casey Gilbert, 6-3, 225, Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Offensive linemen Troy Ragland, 6-4, 260, Huntsville Johnson; Daryl Lewis, 6-4, 260, Tuscaloosa Central; Matt Lomax, 6-5, 298, Mobile UMS-Wright.

Defensive linemen Theo Harris, 6-4, 285, Decatur (Tennessee) Meigs County; David Paine, 6-6, 256, Memphis (Tennessee) Melrose; Jarret Johnson, 6-4, 265, Chickland (Florida).

Linebacker Jamil Northcutt, 6-2, 223, Tullahoma (Tennessee).

There were also players from the state of Alabama who are likely on Bama's recruiting list who attended camps elsewhere. Among them were:

Wide receiver Victor Horn of Huntsville Johnson also attended camps at Tennessee, Michigan and Auburn and was timed at 4.39 seconds in the 40-yard dash in the Tennessee camp (fastest in the camp); offensive lineman Matt Lomax of Mobile UMS-Wright, who went to camps at Tennessee, Michigan and Auburn (and won the Smokehouse Award in the Michigan camp for being the fastest lineman); defensive back Hirschel Bolden of Dothan, who went to Florida and Auburn, and won Most Outstanding Defensive Back at Florida; defensive lineman Demarco McNeil of Prichard Blount who went to Mississippi State and Georgia Tech; wide receiver Deandre Green of Prichard Blount who went to Auburn and Mississippi State; offensive lineman Josh Billue of Guntersville, who went to Georgia (and was offered a scholarship); running back Casinius Moore of Anniston, who went to Auburn; running back Michael Owens of Tuscumbia Dethler, who went to Florida State; tight end Robert Johnson of Montgomery Jeff Davis, who went to Georgia Tech and Georgia; offensive lineman Daniel Green of Verbena, who went to Georgia Tech and Auburn; offensive lineman Steve Goula of Mobile McGill-Toolen, who went to Auburn and was named Top Lineman.

Gottfried Gets A Late Addition

by Donna Fromme

Here's a recap of Tide's recruiting in all sports

Mark Gottfried has his first Alabama men's basketball signee, and it's something of a surprise. Before leaving Murray State last spring to accept the job as head coach at his alma mater, Gottfried had signed an all-state player from Tennessee for Murray State. However, the young man wanted to play for Gottfried. He sought his release from Murray State, the release was granted, and he has now signed with Alabama.

The newest member of the Tide basketball team is Travis Stinnett, a 6-0, 165-pound point guard from Maryville, Tennessee. He will be eligible to play for Bama as a freshman this year.

Stinnett was a two-time all-state player at Alcoa High School. As a senior he was the All-East Tennessee Player of the Year and a finalist for "Mr. Basketball." He participated in the Tennessee-Georgia All-Star Game. Stinnett was an all-district, all-county and all-region selection all four years of high school. He was the region MVP in 1996 and the district MVP this year. He was 1997 and 1998 Player of the Year in Blount County.

He averaged 21 points and six assists per game as a senior and led his team with 89 three-point shots. His career highs include 39 points and 16 assists. He is Alcoa High School's all-time leading scorer and led Alcoa to four straight district championships.

He was a member of the National Honor Society.

Stinnett also played baseball and was all-county, all-region and all-district.

The signing of Stinnett puts Alabama one over the scholarship limit of 13. However, it is believed an earlier signee, Mark Kimbrough, may fail to be academically eligible.

Previously announced signees in men's basketball are:

Sam Haginas: The 6-8, 235 pound forward was named "Mr. Basketball" in the State of Alabama in 1998 by the sportswriters' association. He led Mobile's UMS-Wright to a 30-3 record and the Class 3A state championship title. Haginas was all-state both his junior and senior seasons and averaged 16.4 points and 7.6 rebounds a game this past season. His high school career high was 40 points in a 1997 regional championship game. He was

selected to play in the 1998 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game, but Haginas declined in order to begin his academics work early at The University, enrolling in summer school in June (he was an honor student at UMS-Wright).

Mark Kimbrough: The 6-6, 235 pound forward is a JUCO transfer from Pensacola Junior College. He was an honorable mention JUCO All-America in 1998, leading PJC to a 23-8 record and the Panhandle Conference title. Kimbrough is PJC's all-time scoring leader with 1,308 career points in two seasons.

Cedric Patton: A 6-7, 169 pound forward from Huntsville's Grissom High, Patton was a second team all-state selection. He was selected to play in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game and scored 13 points in the game. Patton led Grissom to the 1997 6A state finals and averaged 11.5 points and 5.5 rebounds that year.

Here are Alabama signees in sports other than football for the upcoming school year:

Baseball

Although Alabama signed 16 new baseball players, two signed professional baseball contracts and will not be attending Bama. The two signees not enrolling in school this fall are first baseman David Callahan and right-handed pitcher Frankie McGill. Callahan, left-hander from Palm Bay, Florida, was taken in the third round by the Florida Marlins. McGill, taken in the fifth round by the Texas Rangers, was an all-state pitcher at Pensacola's Tate High School.

These will enter Alabama this fall:

Brent Boyd, infielder, (5-11, 190) from Fort Worth, Texas Paschal High School; Jeremy Brown, catcher/infielder (5-11, 210), Hueytown High School; Lance Cormier, right-handed pitcher (6-0, 175), Lafayette, Louisiana, High School; Shane Henderson, right-handed pitcher (6-3, 210), Trussville, Central Alabama Community College; Keith Long, left-handed pitcher (6-2, 195), Alexander City, Central Alabama Community College; Kevin Marzion, right-handed pitcher (6-1, 180), Elk Grove, California, Sacramento City CC; Rock Mills, catcher/outfielder (6-1, 205), Cleveland, Ohio, St. Edwards High School; Scott McClanahan, outfielder (6-3, 200), Hartselle High School; Jason Moates, right-handed pitcher (6-3, 200), Columbia, Tennessee, Meridian Community College; Scott Murphy, right-handed pitcher (6-6, 210), Lilburn, Georgia, Parkview High School; Jeff Nichols, right-handed pitcher (6-1, 190), Tuscaloosa Central; Erik Smallwood, infielder/outfielder (6-0, 190), Robertsedale Tate; Matthew Whitaker, first baseman (6-2, 185), Vestavia

High School; Frank Allen Yielding, right-handed pitcher (6-3, 205), Mountain Brook High School.

Women's Basketball

Though All-America Dominique Canty returns, Rick Moody will have a new-look team with the addition of six players who signed to play for his successful Tide women's basketball team. All six signed during the November signing period.

The best of those is Moody's third JUCO Player of the Year coup. Kaunda Williams, a 5-8 guard from Gulf Coast Community College, joins former Tide players Shalonda Enis and Tausha Mills as JUCO's best players who went on to play at Alabama. No doubt Williams is hoping she'll continue on their career path past Alabama as Enis went on to be the ABL's all-star MVP in 1998 and Mills just signed with the ABL's Chicago franchise.

Williams, a Laurel Hill, Florida native, led the nation in JUCO scoring her freshman year and averaged 33.5 points per game. She led her high school to the 1995 state title as well.

Beth Vice, "Miss Basketball" in the state of Kentucky, was lured by Moody to sign with Alabama. She's coached by former Tide assistant Mike Kindred who happens to be married to former Tide All-SEC point guard Tracey Rutledge. Vice is a 5-11 guard/forward from Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. Her team advanced to Kentucky's final four. She is recovering from knee surgery.

LaNisha Cartwell is the lone in-state player signee as she comes from Montevallo. The 6-2 post player averaged 20.4 points and 11.7 rebounds as a senior.

Shun Hunter, a 5-11 forward from Pensacola led her team to a 33-0 state championship title in 1997 and is an all-state player.

From Louisiana comes Shondra Johnson, a 5-9 guard who led New Orleans' St. Mary's Academy with her 33.0 points, 11.0 rebounds and 9.0 assists a game. She's a Street & Smith's All-America as well as an AAU All-American. She led her Kenner, Louisiana team to the AAU national title.

Nikki Prescott is a 6-2 post from San Diego, California and Morse high school where she is a three-sport athlete and produced well in summer AAU basketball.

Men's Golf

Jan-Are Larsen, a native of Sarpsborg, Norway, was ranked number one in his country in junior golf in 1993 and has played golf internationally as a member of the Norwegian Team. His best round at the time of his signing with Alabama in April was a 66 on a course in Stromstad, Sweden. He is transferring to Alabama from North Carolina State where he spent a season but

was a redshirt.

Markus Agren: Another part of Alabama's Scandinavian connection, Agren is from Helsingborg, Sweden and has been a member of the Swedish National team. Agren will be a freshman at Alabama when he enters classes in the fall. His low career round at signing time was a 68.

Women's Golf

Betty Palmer will miss Kathryn Cusick, her All-American who advanced to play in the NCAA individual championships this past spring. To counter for the loss, she signed last November Lacy Shelton and Sarah Johnston, sister of Tide golfer and presidential scholar Elizabeth Johnston.

Shelton, an honor student, is from Ft. Payne and won the state junior championship. She led Ft. Payne to state high school runnerup finishes in 1996 and 1997.

Johnston, a native of Benton, Louisiana, has been ranked as high as 18th in the nation in junior golf and reached the semifinals of the 1997 U.S. Junior Girls Championship. Like her sister, academics haven't remotely suffered from her time on the course as she was ranked first in her class academically. She won the individual championship and led her team, Airline High, to the 1996 state championship.

Gymnastics

Husband and wife coaching duo Sarah and David Patterson have signed six young women to help keep Alabama gymnastics among the nation's elite programs. Among those is Canadian national team member Natalie Barrington. She becomes the gymnastics program's first international signee. Barrington finished seventh in the all-around at the 1997 Canadian National Championships and competed in the 1994 Pan American Games. She has been the Elite Ontario-Provincial Champion in the all-around and is a standout academically.

Krista Gole is a three-time national championship competitor and finished first at the 1997 Region 7 Championships in both the all-around and balance beam events. Gole is from Severna Park, Maryland and is a state champion in the all-around, balance beam, uneven bars and floor exercise.

Alexa Martinez is from Corpus Christi, Texas and has competed in the 1996 USA Championships where she finished 16th in the floor exercise. She finished 13th all-around and fifth in the floor exercise at the 1996 U.S. Classic.

Louisville, Kentucky, native Whitney Morgan was the 1997 Junior Olympic National All-Around champion and Region V Gymnast of the Year. She won the vault competition at the 1996 Level 10 National Championships and is a two-time member of the U.S. national team. She has qualified for nationals six times.

Andree Pickens is a member of the U.S. National team and hails from Houston,

Texas. She was an alternate on the U.S. World Championship team in 1995 and finished 12th all-around at the 1996 U.S. Olympic Trials. She finished third all-around and second in the vault and the uneven bars at the 1996 Australian Cup.

And Gaithersburg, Maryland, native Raegan Tomasek competed at the 1997 Pan American Championships, helping the United States to a silver medal finish. She finished fifth all-around, first in the balance beam and second in the floor exercise there. She finished second all-around at the 1997 U.S. Classic and was second on the balance beam at the 1997 U.S. Gymnastics Championships.

Soccer

Don Staley signed six players to replace the 12 players, nine of those seniors, (not all on scholarship) he lost to graduation or otherwise.

Joining the Tide soccer team to help it defend its 1997 SEC West Division title are a group of incoming players that includes Alabama's first international soccer player. Rachel Brown's presence will be key at Alabama as the Burnley, England native will step in immediately at the goalkeeper position. She's a member of the English national team. That link placed her in several World Cup qualifying matches.

Hoping to wreak havoc on opposing goalkeepers will be Dawn Battle, a three-sport star (soccer, basketball, softball) at Georgia's Stone Mountain High School. She played both striker and forward in high school and was averaging 60 points a season going into her senior year.

Kathleen Motheral is a forward and midfielder from Ft. Worth, Texas, a state noted nationally for its rich bed of prep soccer talent. Going into her senior season, Motheral had 57 career goals and ran a 4.8 in the 40-yard dash. And, to Staley's delight, she's a 4.0 student. Motheral was also the MVP on her school's field hockey team.

Ellen Sanders has set school records in goals scored, including 32 her junior season, as a midfielder at E.C. Glass in Lynchburg, Virginia. Soccer is one of four sports Sanders participated in there as she also lettered in basketball, volleyball and swimming. A leader off the field as well, Sanders was president of the E.C. Glass student body.

Mantua, New Jersey's Danielle Watson will bring her game to Tuscaloosa. She scored 72 goals during her prep career at Clearview Regional (where she also played softball and basketball). She's a forward and midfielder. Watson was a discovery in Don Staley's summer soccer camps.

Krisse Wisse, another three-sport star hails from Pine Richland High School in Wexford, Pennsylvania where she's a forward and midfielder. She scored 133 goals—an average of 33 a season—and had 68 assists during her four year career. She's also her school's all-

time leading girls scorer in basketball and holds school records in the 800 meters. Wisse comes from Staley's home stomping grounds near Pittsburgh.

Softball

Three signees join the 1998 SEC Champion Crimson Tide softball program. Among those are Suzanne Olcott, a 5-3 infielder from Birmingham's Vestavia Hills High School. Vestavia Hills was the 1995 state runner-up. Olcott has played on many successful ASA teams. She set records as a part of Vestavia Hills' 1996 state champion track team, and she is the 1996 state champion indoor as a relay team member.

Kasey Whitehead is a 5-8 pitcher and short stop from Roswell, Georgia, and has been a member of teams that won national championships in 1995 and placed fifth nationally in 1997. Whitehead is a two-time All-America and three-time all-state selection. She was invited to the 1994 Olympic Trials.

Shelley Laird comes to Alabama from Spring, Texas, near Houston where her teams have made the playoffs the last three years. The 5-foot-10 pitcher was district MVP in 1995 and 1997.

Swimming & Diving

Chuck Horton and his staff have been nothing if not busy on the recruiting trail this year. The results have been significant.

On the women's side, Alabama has signed Fort Myers, Florida, native Belinda Green, the 5A Florida 100 breaststroke champion. Also joining the Tide's breaststroke lane next season is Marcy Warriner of Brandon, Mississippi. Warriner holds six Mississippi State high school records. Also inking a letter of intent with Alabama is Spanish diver Laura Maldonado, a European Cup semi-finalist in 1998.

On the men's side of the slate, Alabama has signed Australian distance ace Mathew Smith. Smith is a member of the Australian national team, having competed in the Pan-Pacific Championships. Cleveland, Mississippi, native, T.J. Wolters will join the Tide next season as part of its butterfly and individual medley corps. Wolters is the holder of numerous Mississippi State records and is a Scholastic All-America. Hailing from Coral Springs, Florida, Elan Blumberg will see immediate action in the breaststroke and individual medley events for the Crimson Tide.

Men's Tennis

Adam Steinberg's first official signing was a big one for the Crimson Tide tennis team. Steinberg was hired as Alabama's men's tennis coach just as classes began last August, so recruiting had already been completed for his first season in 1997-98. He hit the road looking for talent and landed an American, Chris McRae, who has been ranked as high as number 23 in the nation in juniors tennis and has been ranked number one in his home state of Kentucky six times. McRae is

from Louisville's Ballard High School and plays Davis Cup tennis for Kentucky. He comes from a tennis family as two of his older brothers have played collegiately at the University of Louisville.

Women's Tennis

Jenny Mainz will try to rebound from her everything -that-could-go-wrong-did-go-wrong first season as Alabama's head women's tennis coach. Left with a bare cupboard after top ten ranked Baili Camino abruptly transferred to Florida at the end of the 1997 season and most of her returning players went down with season debilitating injuries, Mainz has signed four players to work into her six singles positions in 1998-99.

Among those is Weyli Chang, sister of Tide men's player Weylu Chang. Weyli Chang has been coached for several years now at the famed Bolletieri Tennis and Sports Academy whose most famous son is Andre Agassi and Monica Seles its most famed female product. Chang, who is from Lynnfield, Massachusetts, but attended Bradenton Academy in Florida, was voted her school's Best Athlete her senior year. Chang won the 1997 Southern Open singles and doubles championships for the 18s. She's played on the Florida Zonal Team in 1996 and was a member of the 1997 Florida State High School Championships team. Chang has been ranked as high as 18th nationally in doubles and is also nationally ranked in singles.

Jenny Ketchum, Franklin, Tennessee, advanced to the state finals her sophomore and junior seasons and was the all-mid state Player of the Year her junior season and is a two-time first team all-state player. She has been nationally-ranked and played Junior Davis/Federation Cup tennis for Tennessee for three years. She's been ranked as high as eighth in doubles and number 70 in singles.

Kathleen Mele is an Augusta, Georgia, native who led Augusta Prep to four straight Georgia State Championships. She was undefeated in both singles and doubles during her prep career, winning the region and state titles in doubles as a sophomore, junior and senior. Mele was ranked as high as eighth nationally in singles in 16s.

Becca Baum is from Gadsden and was coached by former Alabama men's coach Tommy Wade who is the professional at the Country Club of Birmingham. She is the 1997 Alabama Tennis Association Player of the Year and has played Junior Davis Cup for Alabama for three years. She led her Zonals team to the gold medal in national competition in 1995 and a silver medal in 1996. She made it to the round of 32 at the 1997 National Clay Court Championships and, playing for Westbrook Christian, won state singles championships in 1995, 1997 and 1998. She was valedictorian of her class and graduated with her class's highest grade

point average. Her father, Billy Baum, was an Olympic basketball player for Puerto Rico.

Men's Track & Field

Harvey Glance has signed seven athletes in his first full-scale season of recruiting for the crimson and white side of the state. Auburn's former head coach and Olympian has signed seven athletes to his Tide men's track and field team with a crop that includes two nationally ranked high school pole vaulters and a string of talented junior college transfers.

Jason Blair, a native of Rockport, Indiana, has been ranked as high as seventh in the nation in high school pole vaulting, and Chad Covington, a native of The Woodlands, Texas, ranks ahead of Blair at sixth.

James Grant, who'll join them in Alabama's freshman class, is a Florida native who holds Cocoa High School records in the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

The incoming junior college crew is led by Barton County Community College transfer Randy Farr. Farr won district titles in the 200-meter dash in 1995 and again in 1996 and ran a leg on a district champion 4x400 meter relay team. He is the regional champion in the 400-meter dash and earned All-America honors when Barton County won the NJCAA championships 4x400 meter relay.

His Barton County teammate Cori Loving will join him at Alabama. Loving ran a leg on that national champion relay team and was runner-up at nationals in the 400-meter dash.

Jeremy Taylor had less distance to travel as he comes to Alabama from Wallace State where he earned All-America honors in the long jump. His best jump is 25-4. Taylor helped lead Wallace State to the national team championship last year.

Javon Dixon is transferring to Alabama from Florissant Valley Community College where he earned junior college All-America honors in the 400-meter dash.

Women's Track & Field

Sandy Fowler completed her first full season as the first head women's track and field coach at Alabama by signing eight athletes for her 1998-99 team.

Among those signees is junior college transfer Branditt Copper. She is a two-time Pennsylvania high school state champion in the 55-meter hurdles and won the state championship in the 100-meter hurdles in 1995. Copper was Pennsylvania's state runnerup for four years running (1993-96) in the triple jump. Upon graduation, she attended Barton County College in Kansas where she ran legs on Penn Relays champion teams in the 4x100 and the 4x400. Her junior college resume includes a third-place finish in the 55-meter hurdles and fifth place finishes in the 100-meter hurdles and the triple jump at the national championships.

She will be joined at Alabama by her teammate Mary Grant who won regional champi-

onships in the long jump, 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes last season. Grant holds six school records at Barton County. Those events include the long jump, triple jump, 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes and 4x100 meter relay.

Ne-juan Shaul will also transfer to Alabama with a route through Meridian, Mississippi, Junior College. Shaul was the national champion in the 55-meter hurdles, finished third at nationals in the 100-meter hurdles. She's from New Orleans.

Sara Darling will come to Alabama as a true freshman after graduating this past spring from Boca Raton's Spanish River High School. Darling, a two-time cross country and track All-America, is the Florida state cross country high school champion as well as the 1600-meter state champion. She holds school records in the 1600 as well as the 4x800 and 4x1600 meter relay teams.

Lashiba Barnes is a West Palm Beach, Fla., native who won the Florida state championship in the 300-meter hurdles and the 4x100 meter relay. The Palm Beach Lakes High graduate finished third in the high school state championships in the 100-meter hurdles.

Peta-Gaye Barrett will come to Tuscaloosa from Central Arizona College but is a native of Jamaica. She finished fourth in the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the national championships.

Her fellow Kingston, Jamaica, native Judyth Kitson will join her at Alabama. Kitson competes in the long jump, 100- and 200-meter dash events.

And, also coming from overseas to compete for Alabama is Halldora Jonasdottir who is from Borgarnes, Iceland. She will compete in the javelin for Alabama and has a personal best throw of 52.22 meters in competition.

Volleyball

Three women signed to play volleyball for Judy Green's Crimson Tide team where Green said she was seeking diversified and skilled players.

Lexee Marshall, a 5-10 outside hitter, comes from West High in Greeley, Colorado, where she is a three-time all-conference selection. Green describes her as "one of the best all-around volleyball prospects in the nation." She plans to train Marshall in both the opposite side hitter and setter positions.

Jen Wagner is a 5-11 native of Hope, Indiana, where she was a two-time all-state pick. She led her team to the state's "Sweet 16" three times. Her club team was also tremendously successful as it was 18-1, competing nationally. She, too, is an outside hitter.

Janet Golen is a 6-0 middle blocker from Palos Hills, Illinois. She ended her career at A.A. Stagg High School with more than 1,000 kills including a state-record setting 31 kills in a single match. Her club team, the Spikettes, were national runnersup in AAU competition.

Athletes Star In Classroom, Too

by Donna Fromme

Large number of athletes receive academic honors

It was another banner year for the University of Alabama's athletes in the classroom, a tribute in great part to the athletics academics program headed by Kevin Almond.

As of press time, Alabama was awaiting word on whether or not diver Jill DeVasher or gymnast Merritt Booth had received coveted NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships. Both were finalists. Both had already won GTE Academic All-America awards.

DeVasher and Mike LeMaster, a member of the track and field team, won H. Boyd McWhorter Southeastern Conference Postgraduate Scholarships, and soccer's Nicole Lees was a winner in the league as well as she received a Southeastern Conference Community Service Postgraduate Scholarship.

A couple of years ago Alabama established an elite award called "The University of Alabama Senior Top Six Scholar Athletes" which draws a total of six winners from a pool of the athletes in every varsity sport at The University. The 1997-98 Top Six included football player Travis Crim, DeVasher from the swimming and diving team, gymnast Booth, from track Caroline Kerr and LeMaster, and golfer Julie Pelchar.

These are among other awards the Tide reaped in the classroom:

Baseball: Academic All-SEC honorees included Tripp Baldwin and David Mote.

Men's Basketball: Starting center Jeremy Hays balanced books with basketballs and was named Academic All-SEC by keeping a 3.0 or better grade point average.

Women's Basketball: Reagan Croyle, Pam Duncan, Leah Monteith Goss and Kidada Holtzclaw were all named Academic All-SEC. Goss, who celebrated her first wedding anniversary in May, was not the only member of her family to win that award. Her husband, wide receiver Chad Goss, was a football Academic All-SEC honoree. Reagan Croyle was named to the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society.

Football: John David Phillips made the Southeastern Conference "Good Works" Team. Academic All-SEC players included Ty Babcock, Clyde Butler, Travis Crim, Rhett



Merritt Booth

Crutchfield, Warren Foust, Chad Goss, Chad McGehee, Patrick Morgan, John David Phillips, Paul Pickett, Michael Ray, George Ross, Jonathan Rudolph, Clint Waggoner, Jarrod Warren, and Robert Warnock. Waggoner, Honda Student-Athlete of the Week for the Vanderbilt game, was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board. Foust was named ESPN Student-Athlete of the Week for the Auburn game. Thomas Hill was selected to represent Alabama at the 1998 NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference. Randolph Yance was a Golden Key National Honor Society inductee and one of the Outstanding Finance Undergraduate Students. Curtis Alexander won a Budget Rent-A-Car Sportsmanship Award. Crutchfield was cited by the Department of Health Care Management Recognition of Excellence in Scholarship. The Computer-Based Honors Program accepted Ty Babcock.

Men's Golf: Four of Dick Spybey's golfers were Academic All-SEC including Robert Ireland, Richard Matricaria, John Stahlschmidt and Chip Zahn. Zahn was named the winner of the Department of Management and Marketing Charles T. Turner Award and was presented with the Department of Health Care Management Recognition of Excellence in Scholarship Award. Ireland was also inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa. Drew Eller was named Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society and to the University Honors



Jill DeVasher

Program as well as the Honors Program Student Association. Eric Snider was named Alpha Lambda Delta. Cullen Thompson was cited for Excellence in Scholarship by the Department of Marketing.

Women's Golf: Kathryn Cusick won a Budget Rent-A-Car Sportsmanship Award. Academic All-SEC selections included Kathryn Cusick who was also an All-SEC golfer who represented Alabama at the NCAA championships, Elizabeth Johnston, Julie Pelchar and Linda Sorensen. Sorensen was also named Delta Phi Alpha and was cited for Excellence in Scholarship by the Department of Marketing. Presidential Scholar Johnston was named to the University Honors Program and received the College of Commerce and Business Administration Student Executive Council Scholar-Athlete Award.

Gymnastics: Named Academic All-SEC were Merritt Booth, Mandy Chapman, Lexa Evans, Becca Fields, Gina Logan, Danielle McAdams and Shay Murphy. Chapman, Phi Upsilon Omicron, was inducted into Mortar Board and Gamma Beta Phi, and Phi Upsilon Omicron honor societies. Katie Hornecker was named Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma. April Matkinson was Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma. Robin Hawkins was Phi Eta Sigma and Lexa Evans Gamma Beta Phi. Logan was among those honored as Outstanding Health Care Management Undergraduate Students.

Soccer: Don Staley's Academic All-SEC award winners could almost field a full team

as his program produced nine honorees including Nellie Barnes, Jennifer Carle, Cari Higgins, Nicole Lees, Amy Lerche, Christine Miller, Nellie O'Connor, Laura Reddin, Carrie Warner and Angela Young. Higgins was also named the 1998 University of Alabama National Alumni Outstanding Senior Award winner. Miller was inducted as one of the university's top female leaders with her inclusion in the XXXI Women's Honorary and was also inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa as well as the Blue Key Honor Fraternity.

Softball: The SEC's team champion produced five Academic All-SEC players including JC Chapman, Karla Contryman, Christy Kyle, Nicki McKee and Paula White. Freshman honor society Alpha Lambda Delta inducted Ginger Jones as did Phi Eta Sigma.

Men's Swimming and Diving: Academic All-SEC award winners included Mark Jollands, Matt Pendleton, Alan Rose and Marc Schrader. Mark Jollands won the Department of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies Economic Freshman Achievement Award. Schrader was cited by the Department of Marketing in Recognition of Excellence in Scholarship.

Women's Swimming and Diving: Eight women were named Academic All-SEC including Jennifer Buffington, Sara Burns, Keri Coy, Jill DeVasher, Brooke Donoho, Karen Jones, Laura Lloyd and Nora Zhong. Ann-Sofie Joensson was named the College of Arts and Sciences Woodrow Alvin Davis Family Student-Athlete Award Winner for 1997-98. Coy was invited into Omicron Delta Kappa. Nora Zhong was Phi Eta Sigma. Buffington was named vice president of Gamma Beta Phi

Honor Society. And DeVasher's many honors also included the Department of Management Recognition of Excellence in Scholarship award and its Charles A. Odewahn Amoco Award. Dana Bleich was cited by the Department of Marketing in Recognition of Excellence in Scholarship.

Men's Tennis: While he was earning first team All-America honors on the court, Francisco Rodriguez was also making the most of his work in the classroom. Rodriguez and Mason Snider were Academic All-SEC winners. Freshman Jimmy Chambers was named to the university-wide Alpha Lambda Delta honor society and the University Honors Program and received the Gerald Wiggins Endowed Scholarship.

Women's Tennis: Jill Breslin and Dominique Glinzler were the Academic All-SEC honorees for Jenny Mainz's first Alabama team. Glinzler impressed campus-wide as well as she was named the Arts and Sciences' Sophomore of the Year and was named to the University Honors Program as well as Gamma Beta Phi. Tania Fabiani was named to Beta Gamma Sigma, the National Business Honorary and received the Department of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies Wall Street Journal Achievement Award as well as being named to the list of Outstanding Finance Undergraduate Students.

Men's Track and Field: Harvey Glance produced 13 Academic All-SEC athletes in his first season as Alabama's head coach. Those included John Beroset, Wade Beroset, Tim Broe, Faizal Emmaullee, Dean Fulmer, Jeremy Henderson, Brian Hesson, Eric Howington, Mike LeMaster, James

McIngvale, Mats Nilsson and Jody Spangler. LeMaster was also named the Department of English's May S. Strickland Award Winner and won the English Honors Program Graduating Senior Award as well as the Iredell Jenkins Memorial Scholarship in the Department of Philosophy. He was inducted into the University Honors Program. Eric Howington was the Thomas Waverly Palmer Mathematics Award winner. Howington's name was called for inclusion in Golden Key National Honor Society and the University Honors Program. Troy Henderson made Phi Eta Sigma. Jeremy Henderson was the Department of Speech Communication Sophomore Academic Achievement Award winner. Emmaullee was inducted into Sigma Tau Delta. And the cross country team received the NCAA All-Academic Team Award.

Women's Track and Field: Sandy Fowler also made the most of her first team's time in the classroom as 10 of her athletes were named Academic All-SEC. The list includes Elizabeth Aldrich, Ashlee Dunham, Keisha Grant, Martha Hoelzer, Mona Jonsson, Caroline Kerr, Sharon Mavar, Hilary Stiefelmeyer, Tabitha White and Janna Wren. Kerr was named Phi Upsilon Omicron. Hoelzer was awarded the Walton H. Hill Scholarship. Janna Wren was named to the Women's Honors Program.

Volleyball: Laura LeBlanc and Kari Weber were both named Academic All-SEC. Michelle Green was named Phi Eta Sigma and Allison Lange Alpha Lambda Delta, both freshman honoraries. Sarah Cotton was also selected Phi Eta Sigma. LeBlanc was also named to the University Honors Program.

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BAMA SCORECARD

Basketball Walk-Ons

Mark Gottfried is expected to have a handful of walk-on players on his first Alabama men's basketball team, and one of them has something of a legacy in Coleman Coliseum. Expected to join the Tide this year is junior college transfer Jaeson Maravich.

Maravich is the son of the late Pete Maravich, who set the Coleman Coliseum (then Memorial Coliseum) record of 69 points in February, 1970. Jaeson is a 6-3 wing player.

Also expected to join the Tide as a non-scholarshipped player is Solomon Davis, a 6-6, 230-pound forward from LeFlore High School in Mobile. He averaged 13.5 points per game for Coach Robert Bettis and was a straight-A student.

Basketball Crop

It appears high school basketball in the state of Alabama has made a comeback. After years of producing excellent players, there was something of a drought in boys' basketball in the state. However, one respected recruiting publication has listed three Alabama prep stars among the top 35 prospects in the nation next year.

Leading the group is Marvin Stone, the 6-9 inside player at Huntsville Grissom, who is ranked first or second by most recruiting publications. Rod Grizzard, a 6-7 wing guard at Central Park Christian in Birmingham, has been ranked as high as the number 17 prospect in the nation, while Erwin Dudley at R.C. Hatch in Uniontown is ranked 35th.

Searching For Lettermen

The University is seeking updated information on former men's basketball team members. Past players and basketball staff members (including student trainers and managers) are encouraged to contact Becky Hopf in Alabama's sports information office at P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or (205) 348-6084.

Information needed is name, address, telephone number and years with the team. All information will remain private and will be used only by Head Coach Mark Gottfried and his staff to contact players.

Basketball Schedule

Although Alabama's 1998-99 men's basketball schedule had not been finalized at press time, there were a couple of known highlights. The Tide will compete in the inaugural Pearl Harbor Classic December 21-23 in Laie, Hawaii. Brigham Young-Hawaii is the host university. Alabama will play Weber State in the first round. Other teams include

Michigan State, Pepperdine, Texas Tech, Tulsa, and Oregon State.

Alabama has played in two previous tournaments in Hawaii and won both, the Rainbow Classic in Honolulu in 1992 and the Hawaii Pacific Classic in Honolulu in 1988.

There has also been an announcement from Ohio State that Alabama will provide the first major college basketball opposition for the Buckeyes in Ohio State's extraordinary new basketball arena (and all-purpose building), the Jerome Schottenstein Center. The game will be Sunday, November 15, reportedly the season-opener (and thus the first game in the Mark Gottfried era) for Bama. Ohio State will return the game in the 1999-2000 season.

All-Stars

Two Alabama men's basketball signees were selected to play in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game this summer, but only one made the trip to Clinton, Mississippi, for the game. Grissom High School forward Cedric Patton played and scored 13 points for the winning Alabama squad. However, Sam Haginas of Mobile's UMS-Wright, Alabama's "Mr. Basketball," elected to pass up the game and enter Alabama this summer.

Softball Changes

Just months after leading Alabama to the championship of the Southeastern Conference Women's Softball Tournament and having a team that was second in the nation in home runs, Head Coach Kalum Haack surprisingly announced his immediate resignation June 30.

In circumstances that would be considered bizarre most places but these days are somewhat routine at Alabama, no reason was given for the resignation, although the official statement said that Haack "cited personal reasons for his decision." The University did leak information that neither NCAA problems nor improper fraternization was a cause for the resignation.

Athletics Director Bob Bockrath moved quickly to replace Haack by elevating Assistant Coach Pat Murphy to head coach.

Murphy, 31, served as an assistant to Haack both seasons Haack, who started the Tide's program, was head coach. This year Bama went 49-18 and clubbed 73 home runs. Although he had previously served as an interim head coach, this is his first full-time appointment as head coach. Murphy announced that he would retain Tide Assistant Coach Karen Johns, also a part of the program in its first two seasons.

As an assistant on the Tide staff, Murphy's

key duties involved recruiting and working as the team's hitting coach. The Tide finished 13th in the nation in hitting with a .324 team batting average.

Murphy is a 1989 graduate of Northern Iowa. He was a high school coach for two years, then an assistant at Southwestern Louisiana from 1990 through 1993, when Southwestern Louisiana went to the College World Series. He left the following season for another job in high school. He was interim head coach at Northwest Missouri State before being hired as an assistant coach at Alabama in 1996 prior to the inaugural Tide season.

Softball Honors

Freshman shortstop Kelly Kretschman earned second team All-America honors in women's softball following the 1998 season. She was also First Team All-South, and was joined on the All-South team by teammates catcher Carrie Moreman and outfielder Christy Kyle. Additionally, outfielder J.C. Chapman was second team All-South. All but Chapman return to the Tide in 1999.

Kretschman finished the year with a team-high .465 batting average and also led the team in hits (100), home runs (25), doubles (22), total bases (211), slugging percentage (.981), walks (31), on-base percentage (.542) and stolen bases (40). She tied for the lead with Moreman in triples with seven and her 64 runs batted in was second best on the team, one less than Moreman's total. She set an SEC record with a 35-game hitting streak and was in the top 10 in all 17 SEC offensive categories and led 10 of those.

New Facilities

The women's softball team is getting a new facility, although it is not clear if it will be ready for all or any of the 1999 season, which begins in February. Work has begun on the new stadium, which will be near the University Recreation Center. Alabama has played its home games at various city park facilities for the past two years.

Sewell-Thomas Upgrade

Alabama will have a renovated Sewell-Thomas Stadium in 1999. Construction will begin in October on a \$4 million project that will include a players' lockerroom, indoor batting cages, four skyboxes, additional restroom and concession areas, and seating capacity increased from 4,000 to 6,500. The second phase of the project will be to improve the actual playing surface, a job that will begin following the 1999 season.

Baseball Finish

The Tide baseball team concluded the 1998 season with a 46-18 record and its third straight Top 10 national ranking, a school record. Alabama finished the season ranked ninth in the *USA Today*/Baseball Weekly Coaches poll. The Crimson Tide

has been ranked among the nation's Top 10 teams in each of the last three years under Coach Jim Wells. In addition to the coaches' poll, Bama was ranked 12th by *Baseball America*, 14th by *The Sporting News* and 16th by *Collegiate Baseball*.

Baseball Honors

Alabama baseball players Matt Frick, Jarrod Kingrey and Sam Bozanich were named All-America by various publications following the 1998 college baseball season. Frick, a senior catcher, was a second-team All-America by *USA Today/Baseball Weekly* and the National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association (NCBWA) Super Smith Team. Kingrey, a senior pitcher, was a *Collegiate Baseball* second-team All-America and was named third-team All-America by the NCBWA. Bozanich, a second baseman, was tabbed honorable mention Freshman All-America by *Collegiate Baseball*.

New Staffers

Both men's and women's basketball staffs have had additions this summer, as have other areas in the athletics department.

Howard Pride, a former "Mr. Basketball" award-winner from Huntsville who went on to play at Vanderbilt, has been named administrative assistant on Coach Mark Gottfried's men's staff. Pride, who graduated with a 3.7 grade point average following the 1997 season, in which he was team captain, was an assistant coach at Belmont University when Gottfried tapped him for the administrative post. He will work with Alabama players in the area of academics.

Yolanda Watkins, a former All-SEC center for the women's basketball team of Coach Rick Moody, has been named an assistant strength and conditioning coach. Following her basketball career she worked as an assistant in Alabama's media relations office last fall while earning her degree, then served as an intern under Coach Terry Jones in the strength and conditioning department last spring.

Debbie Ponis has been hired as assistant to Head Volleyball Coach Judy Green. Ponis was an All-America player at Northern Colorado last season.

Rod Asberry has been hired as an academic advisor. He'll work with men's basketball, baseball and the swimming and diving teams. Asberry comes to Alabama from South Alabama.

South Alabama also provided Bama with an assistant soccer coach in Aaron Rodgers, who now works with Alabama's goalkeepers. He'll also recruit. Also joining Head Coach Don Staley's staff is Karrie Miller, who comes to Alabama from South Carolina, where she coached the last three seasons.

Summer Golf

Crimson Tide golf has an international flair this summer. Bama is visibly represented at two of the most prestigious college golf

events of the summer, the men's Palmer Cup and the women's U.S.-Japan Matches.

The Palmer Cup, named for and hosted by professional golfing legend Arnold Palmer, takes place August 3-4 at St. Andrews, Scotland. It is a Ryder Cup-style event featuring eight of America's top men's collegiate golfers against their counterparts from Great Britain and Ireland. In last summer's inaugural event Bama was represented by British player Alan MacDonald and by Coach Dick Spybey, who served as manager of the winning United States team. This year Spybey is Tournament Director.

Women's Coach Betty Palmer gets her first international coaching nod as she was selected to serve as head coach of the United States women's team in the late July/early August U.S.-Japan Matches in Chiba, Japan. Among the four players on the American team is former Tide All-America Kathryn Cusick. Cusick was also a member of the 1997 United States team.

Walk-on On National Team

Janna Wren, who completed her first year as a member of the Alabama women's track and field team last spring, earned a spot on the United States Junior National Team, which competed in Annecy, France, in the world championships in late July and early August.

Wren, who walked on at Alabama and who had never thrown the hammer before last spring, earned her spot by finishing second in the hammer throw during the U.S. Junior Nationals. Her toss was 181-3, some 15 feet better than her previous best, and just a fraction of an inch short of first place.

A native of Dothan and graduate of Northview High School, Wren walked on at Alabama expecting to compete in her high school sports, shot put and discus.

Radio Lineup

Alabama will have a new voice in its radio broadcast booth for Tide football games this year.

Kenny Stabler, one of the all-time great quarterbacks in Alabama and National Football League history, will be the color man on Bama football broadcasts. He has joined returning play-by-play man Eli Gold. Tom Roberts will serve as host of a pre-game show, provide sidelines comments during the games, and handle the post-game lockerroom show. Doug Layton, the veteran of the crew beginning his 30th year on the network, will join Roberts as co-host of a two-hour pre-game show. David Crane will assist with post-game and halftime shows.

National Awards

Each year the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) hands out national awards for excellence in publications. Once again, Alabama was well-represented at the honors presentations.

Media guide awards included: Best in Nation, women's golf, edited by Brian Morgan; Second in Nation, men's golf, edited by Becky Hopf (those two books took first and second place in the district); Third in Nation, gymnastics, edited by Rob Woodruff; Fourth in Nation, women's tennis, edited by Woodruff; Fifth in Nation, men's tennis, edited by Hopf (those took first and second place in the district); Best in District, men's basketball, edited by Hopf; Third in Nation, football program, edited by David Crane and Brent Hollingsworth.

Alabama also won in the poster contest with Hopf's volleyball placing Fourth in Nation and First in District and her baseball poster Second in District.

Hopf also took two first place writing awards, one on quarterback Freddie Kitchens and one on Coach Mike DuBose, which were published in Alabama's football programs.

Media Guides

Alabama's Media Relations Office is now taking orders for various press guides, including the recently-completed Football Media Guide. To order, make check payable to University of Alabama and mail to Media Guides, Athletic Media Relations Office, P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Prices (including shipping) of various guides are 1998 Football \$15, 1998-99 Men's Basketball \$10, 1998-99 Women's Basketball \$8, 1999 Baseball \$8, 1999 Gymnastics \$8.

Curry Hired

Former Alabama football coach Bill Curry has been named chief operating officer of the National Consortium for Academics and Sports.

NCAS was created in 1984 by the Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University. The more than 160 colleges and universities which are members agree to bring back to school, at no tuition cost, former athletes who competed in revenue-producing sports for the schools. In exchange, the former athletes participate in outreach and community service programs.

NCAS says more than 13,000 athletes have returned to finish their degrees under NCAS programs and that programs started by its members have reached more than 5 million young people. Curry is to work out of NCAS's national office at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando, Florida.

Tide Grad Leads Tennessee Golf

Jim Kelson, a former Alabama golfer, has been named head men's golf coach at Tennessee. Kelson, a 34-year-old Dallas native, is a 1987 Alabama graduate. He was an assistant at Florida for four years and has been head coach at Augusta (Georgia) State College, which was 11th in the nation in 1997.



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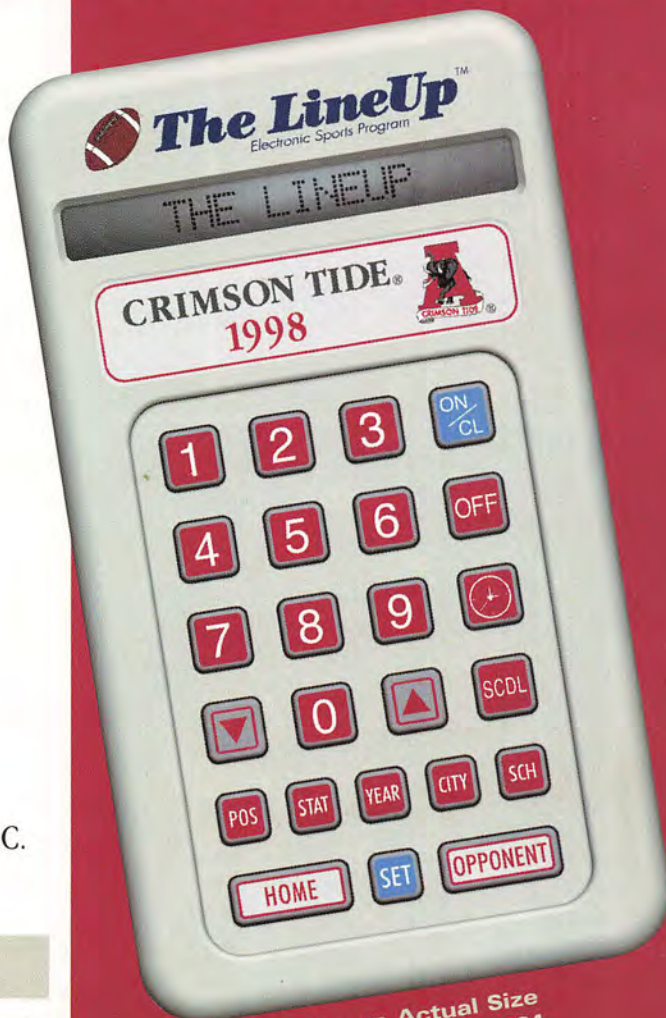
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